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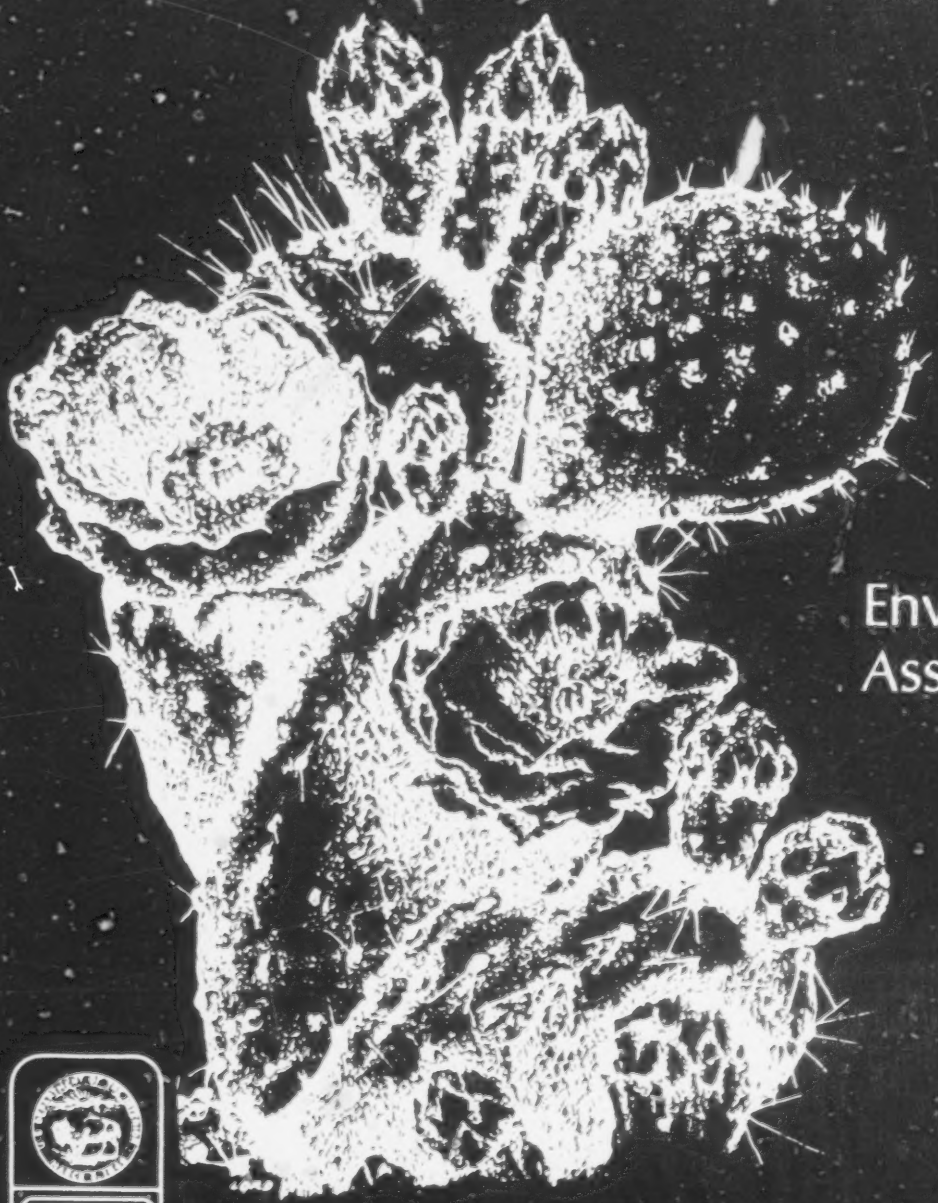
PROPOSED
1988

PLAN AMENDMENTS

TO THE CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA PLAN OF 1980



Environmental Assessment

MAY 1989

California
Desert District
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior

I 1.98:

United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
CALIFORNIA DESERT DISTRICT
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1600
(C-060.23)

Dear Reader:

Last December (1988), we invited you and other interested parties to review the California Desert Plan as amended and submit any comments and recommendations for proposed amendments of the Plan. The response that we received from organizations and individuals as well as from our own staff resulted in the amendment proposals contained in this environmental assessment.

My thanks to those of you who sent in comments and suggestions. I hope that you will continue to help us manage your public lands.

The decision to accept or reject these proposed amendments will be based on a number of factors including effect on the natural environment, input from the public, and recommendations of the California Desert District Advisory Council.

We are providing a two-month public review of the environmental assessment. Please send your comments to this office by July 28, 1989. The address is:

California Desert District
Bureau of Land Management
ATTN: Plan Amendments
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

Sincerely,

Gerald E. Hillier
District Manager

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PROPOSED 1988 AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA PLAN

PREPARED BY
Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
California Desert District

The Bureau of Land Management is conducting its 1988 review of the California Desert Plan. This Environmental Assessment considers the environmental consequences of accepting or rejecting each of nineteen proposed amendments. The amendments include Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (including creation of three new ACECs, deletion of three existing ACECs, and one boundary adjustments), five multiple use class changes, deletion of portions of three utility corridors, three changes in motorized vehicle access, and two changes in the Livestock Grazing Element. Under the Bureau's preferred alternative, 17 amendments would be accepted, and 2 would be rejected.

Gerald E. Hillier
DISTRICT MANAGER
CALIFORNIA DESERT

For Further Information Contact:

Gerald E. Hillier, District Manager
California Desert District
Bureau of Land Management
1695 Spruce Street
Riverside, California 92507

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PLAN AMENDMENTS

In accordance with Chapter 7 of the California Desert Plan and with 43 CFR 1610.5-5 (BLM Planning Regulations), the Bureau of Land Management, California Desert District has initiated the eighth amendment review of the plan.

Proposals were received during the 36-day period from February 11 to March 18, 1988. Thirty-two proposals were made by the public and by BLM staff. They were screened by BLM management and by the California Desert District Advisory Council to determine which should be considered at this time and which should be deferred, dropped, or handled by an administrative action. The following nineteen proposals were accepted for consideration.

Category	Number	Description
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	1	Designate an ACEC for Cultural Resources at Rodman Mountains Cultural Area.
	2	Designate an ACEC for wildlife, vegetation, and other resources adjacent to Red Rock Canyon State Park.
	3	Designate an ACEC at Dedeckera Canyon and the adjoining area for botanical and other significant resources.
	4	Enlarge boundaries of Coyote Mountains ACEC (No. 62).
	5	Delete Camp Irwin Military Boundary ACEC (No. 28).
	6	Delete Kramer Hills ACEC (No. 38).
	7	Delete Dale Lake ACEC (No. 51)
Multiple Use Class Changes	8	Change Yuha Desert Management Area between Hwy. 80 and Hwy. 98 from "M" to "L".
	9	Change MUC designation of East Mesa Desert from "M" to "L" between Hwy. 78 and the Mexican border and between the East Highline and the Old Coachella Canals.
	10	Change all Class M areas within East Mojave National Scenic Area to Class L.
	11	Change MUC designation of land adjacent to Dumont Dunes from "M" to "I"; change motorized vehicle designation from "limited" to "open."

	12	Change the MUC designation of a portion of Ivanpah Dry Lake from "L" to "M".
Energy Production and Utility Corridors	13	Eliminate a portion of Utility Corridor M
	14	Eliminate that portion of Utility Corridor E within the East Mojave National Scenic Area
	15	Eliminate Contingent Utility Corridor W.
Motorized Vehicle Access	16	Change motorized vehicle access in the Chuckwalla Dune Thicket ACEC from "limited" to "closed."
	17	Change motorized vehicle access in the Palen Dry Lake ACEC from "limited" to "closed."
Livestock Grazing	18	Prohibit grazing south of Interstate 10 in Ford Dry Lake Allotment.
	19	Establish an ephemeral grazing allotment near Daggett.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The impacts of both accepting and rejecting each amendment are summarized in Table S-1.

BLM PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Based in part upon the amendment-specific impacts, a preferred alternative has been selected. This preferred alternative is not a final decision, but simply indicates a preliminary recommendation that has been included in this EA for public comment and review. A recommendation to accept, reject or accept a modified version of each amendment has been made: 17 amendments would be accepted, and 2 would be rejected.

The cumulative impacts of this preferred alternative are presented in Table S-2 below:

TABLE S-1

CANDIDATE AMENDMENTS - SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

X - POSITIVE IMPACT — - NEGATIVE IMPACT

Amend. Number	Amendment	RESOURCES									USES		
		Soil-Air-Water	Botany	Wildlife	Horses-Burros	Cultural Resources	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Geology-Energy-Minerals	Livestock Grazing	Recreation	Lands
1	RODMAN MOUNTAINS ACEC												
	A: Designate new ACEC					X							
	B: Reject Amendment												
2	RED ROCK CANYON ACEC												
	A: Designate new ACEC		X	X									
	B: Reject Amendment												
3	DEDECKERA CANYON ACEC												
	A: Designate new ACEC		X	X									
	B: Reject Amendment												
4	COYOTE MOUNTAIN ACEC												
	A: Expand ACEC					X							
	B: Reject Amendment					-							
5	CAMP IRWIN BOUNDARY ACEC												
	A: Delete ACEC												
	B: Reject Amendment												
6	KRAMER HILL ACEC												
	A: Delete ACEC												
	B: Reject Amendment												
7	DALE LAKE ACEC												
	A: Delete ACEC												
	B: Reject Amendment												
8	YUHA DESERT MANAGEMENT AREA CLASS CHANGE												
	A: Accept Amendment			X		X							
	B: Reject Amendment			-									

TABLE S-1
CANDIDATE AMENDMENTS - SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

X - POSITIVE IMPACT — - NEGATIVE IMPACT

Amend. Number	Amendment	RESOURCES									USES		
		Soil-Air-Water	Botany	Wildlife	Horses-Burros	Cultural Resources	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Geology-Energy-Minerals	Livestock Grazing	Recreation	Lands
9	EAST MESA CLASS CHANGE												
	A: Accept Amendment			X		X							
	B: Reject Amendment			-									
10	EAST MOJAVE SCENIC AREA CLASS CHANGE												
	A: Accept Amendment		X	X		X			X				
	B: Modify Proposal								X				
	C: Reject Amendment			-		-			-				
11	DUMONT DUNES CLASS CHANGE												
	A: Add Area 2											X	
	B: Add Areas 2 and 3											X	
	C: Add Areas 2, 3 and 4	-		-								-	
	D: Reject Amendment											-	
12	IVANPAH DRY LAKE CLASS CHANGE												
	A: Accept Amendment	-		-									-
	B: Reject Amendment												
13	UTILITY CORRIDOR M												
	A: Delete A Portion					X			X				
	B: Reject Amendment												
14	UTILITY CORRIDOR E												
	A: Delete Portion								X				
	B: Reject Amendment												
15	CONTINGENT UTILITY CORRIDOR W												
	A: Delete from East Mojave Scenic Area			X					X				
	B: Reject Amendment												

TABLE S-1

CANDIDATE AMENDMENTS - SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

X - POSITIVE IMPACT — - NEGATIVE IMPACT

Amend. Number	Amendment	RESOURCES									USES		
		Soil Air Water	Botany	Wildlife	Horses Burros	Cultural Resources	Native Americans	Wilderness	Visual Resources	Geology Energy Minerals	Livestock Grazing	Recreation	Lands
16	CHUCKWALLA DUNE THICKET ACEC A: Change Vehicle Access B: Reject Amendment		X	X									
17	PALEN DRY LAKE ACEC A: Change Vehicle Access B: Reject Amendment					X							
18	FORD DRY LAKE ALLOTMENT A: Prohibit Grazing South of Interstate 10 B: Reject Amendment			X -									
19	DAGGETT ALLOTMENT A: Establish Ephemeral Allotment B: Modify Proposed Boundary C: Reject			-				-			X		

TABLE S-2

SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Resource	Unit of Measure	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Percent Change	New Percent of Desert
Multiple Use Class					
C	Acres	1,900,000	1,900,000	0	15.9
L	Acres	5,902,000	6,151,440	4.2	51.4
M	Acres	3,400,000	3,142,410	-7.6	26.3
I	Acres	520,000	528,150	1.6	4.4
Unclassified	Acres	249,000	249,000	0	2.1
Vehicle Access					
Open	Acres	505,000	513,150	1.6	4.3
Limited	Acres	9,251,000	9,237,464	0.15	77.2
Closed	Acres	1,963,000	1,968,386	0.27	16.4
Undesignated	Acres	251,000	251,000	0	2.1
ACECs					
Added	Number	0	3		
	Acres	0	14,797		
Deleted	Number	0	3		
	Acres	0	5,360		
Net Change	Number	0	0		
	Acres	0	+9,437		
Livestock Grazing					
Ephemeral Allotments	Number	19	19		
	Acres	1,351,118	1,315,818		
Ephemeral/Perennial Allotments	Number	25	25		
	Acres	3,036,267	3,036,267		
Perennial Allotments	Number	14	14		
	Acres	720,522	720,522		

CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan (1980) and with 43 CFR 1610.5-5. the Bureau of Land Management is conducting the eighth amendment review of the Plan.

Proposals for amendments were accepted during a 47-day period from January 28 to March 18, 1988. Thirty-three amendments were proposed by the public and by BLM staff for consideration during the review. The proposals were then screened by BLM management and by the California Desert District Advisory Council to determine which ones met the following criteria:

(1) Is the proposed amendment based on new data not considered when the plan was developed?

(2) Does the information represent a change in legal or regulatory mandate?

(3) Is the supporting detail sufficient and the problem clearly stated so that the request can be considered?

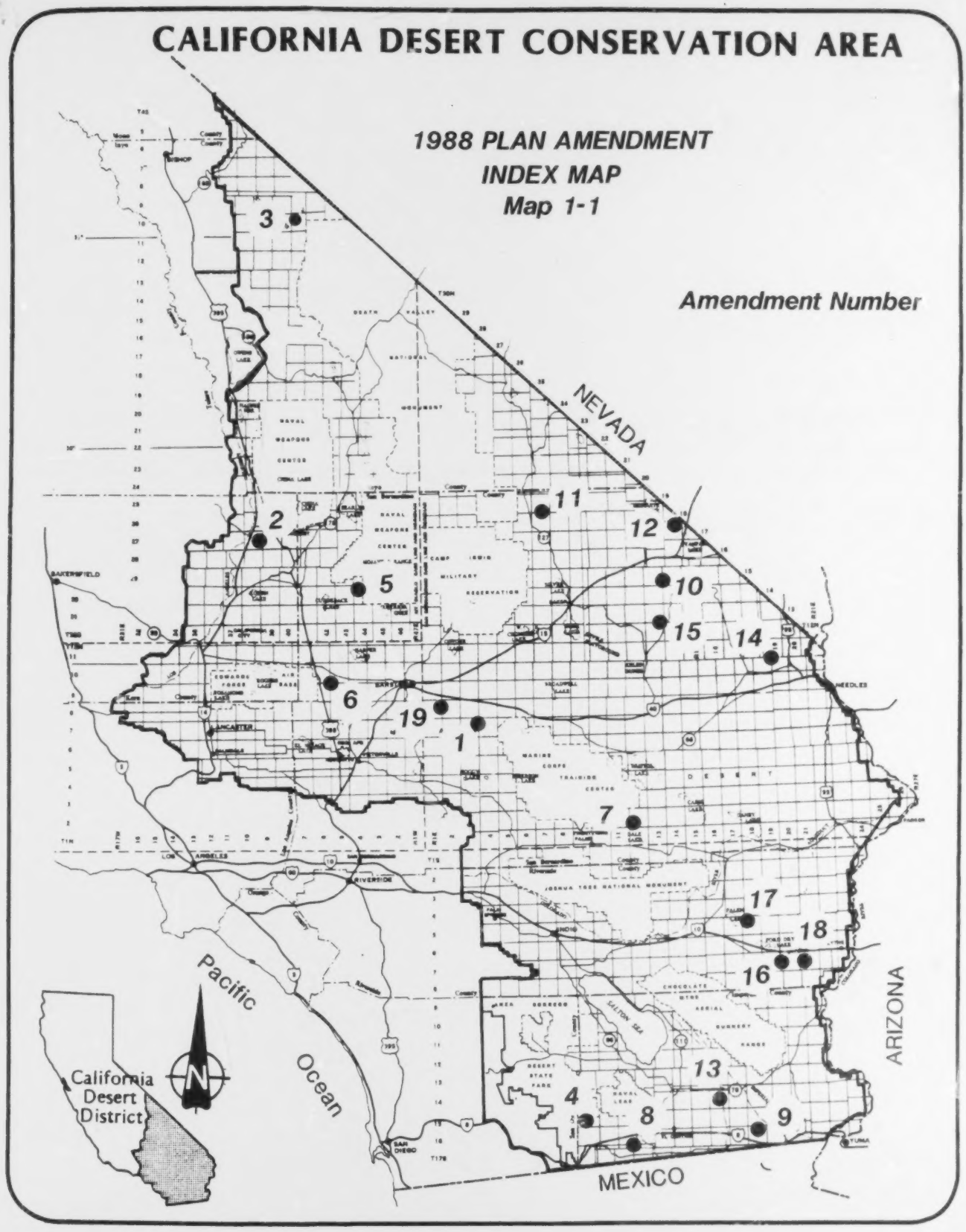
(4) Does the information represent a formal change in State or local government or agency plans?

Nineteen proposals met the criteria and are analyzed by this environmental assessment. Seven proposals were rejected from consideration or will be handled by methods more appropriate than the amendment procedure, as described in Appendix B (Tables B-1 and B-2). Consideration of six proposals has been deferred to a later date.

The final decision concerning whether or not to approve each amendment will be made following a 60-day public review of the EA. The decision will be based upon several factors, including the findings of this EA and the public response received during the review period and the Desert Advisory Committee recommendations.

Most of the amendments address site-specific issues. Map 1-1 indicates their regional location; site-specific maps can be found in Appendix A.

CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREA



CHAPTER 2
ALTERNATIVES

CHAPTER 2

AMENDMENTS AND ALTERNATIVES

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Nineteen proposed amendments to the Desert Plan have been accepted for consideration. Each amendment has been considered individually for either acceptance or rejection. The rejection of an amendment represents the "no-action" alternative. Additional alternatives have been proposed for several of the amendments which present modified versions of the proposal.

The amendments have been grouped into the following categories:

1. Areas of Critical Environmental concern.
2. Multiple Use Class Changes
3. Utility Corridors
4. Motorized Vehicle Access
5. Livestock Grazing

Table 2-1 describes each of the proposed amendments and the reasons given by the proponent for the change. A summary of the impacts of the preferred alternative is presented in Table 2-2. Maps of each amendment are located in Appendix A. The proponents of the amendments are listed in Appendix B.

TABLE 2-1 DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale
	ACECs AND SPECIAL AREAS			
1	Designate an ACEC for cultural resources at the Rodman Mountain Cultural Area Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	Rock art sites within this area have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These sites are significant because: there is a diversity of artistic styles and association with habitation sites, trails, and resource exploitation sites; they are located close to contemporary habitation areas and are amenable to public interpretation; and they are significant to the religious and spiritual concerns of Native Americans. The ACEC designation provides the mechanism to give this unique area the special management it needs over and above that provided by wilderness designation, if and when that would occur.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.
2	Designate an ACEC for wildlife and botanical resources adjacent to Red Rock Canyon State Park in the land co-managed by the BLM and the California State Dept. of Parks and Recreation. Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	The ACEC would provide additional protection to wildlife, vegetation, and other resources currently subject to human disturbance. These include: (a) golden eagles, prairie falcons, great horned owls, and kestrels; (b) BLM sensitive plants: Hemizonia arida, and Phacelia nashiana; (c) desert tortoise and Mojave ground squirrel; (d) Native American values - intaglio art; and (e) vertebrate fossil formation - a rich and fragile Miocene fossil bed.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.
3	Designate an ACEC at Dedeckera Canyon and the adjoining area for botanical and other significant resources. Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	This canyon is an area of unusual values. Its dolomite cliffs provide habitats for unique plant assemblages, including Dedeckera eurekensis and many species endemic to the Death Valley region. Its archaeological sites have yet to receive adequate study, but there is evidence that they should be protected from degradation. Raptors are present and, possibly bighorn sheep.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.

TABLE 2-1 DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale
		A 4WD route runs through the canyon on its way between Eureka and Saline Valleys. Camping in the canyon could be hazardous to both the natural resources and to the campers, as flash floods may sweep down the canyon with great force. ACEC management could protect the botanical and archaeological resources and control human use of the canyon.		
4	Expand boundaries of ACEC #62 - Coyote Mountain. Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	The original boundaries included few paleontological areas in the Coyote Mountains. New research by the San Diego Natural History Museum, under cooperative agreement with the Bureau, has better defined the distribution of paleontological values.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.
5	Delete ACEC #28, Camp Irwin Boundary. Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	Approximately 80% of the ACEC and 100% of the cultural resources are located within the Fort Irwin National Training Center which is under the Department of Army administration. The resources present in this area on public lands under BLM administration do not warrant special management implied by an ACEC designation.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.
6	Delete ACEC #38, Kramer Hills. Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	A 100% pedestrian survey of the ACEC in 1984 and again in 1986 failed to locate any cultural resources within the ACEC. The resources present in this area do no warrant special management implied by an ACEC designation.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.
7	Delete ACEC #57, Dale Lake Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	A 100% pedestrian survey of the ACEC in January 1987 failed to locate significant cultural resources within the ACEC; previously recorded sites could not be relocated. The resources present in this area do not warrant special management implied by an ACEC designation.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.

TABLE 2-1 DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale
	MULTIPLE-USE CLASS CHANGES			
8	Change the Multiple Use Class from "M" to "L" in the portion of the Yuha Desert Management Area between Highways 80 and 98 (excluding the Dunaway Staging Area). Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	Wildlife and cultural resource values in the Yuha Desert have deteriorated steadily since the late 1970s, in spite of many attempts to achieve management control. These included the formulation and implementation of the Yuha Desert Management Framework Plan (1975), the Yuha Basin ACEC activity plan (1981), the Yuha Desert Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (1983), and the Yuha Desert Management Plan (1985). A change to Class L would provide more protective management guidelines and improve the Bureau's potential for halting the decline of resources in this sensitive area.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.
9	Change the Multiple Use Class from "M" to "L" in the East Mesa Desert between Highway 78 and the Mexican border, the East Highline and the Old Coachella Canals (excluding Long Term Visitor Areas and the Gordon's Well Camp Site). Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	Since adoption of the Desert Plan in 1980, the population of the flat-tailed horned lizard (FTHL) has declined significantly in some parts of its range in southeast California, southern Arizona, and portions of Baja California. This decline led to the lizard's being designated as a "sensitive species" by the BLM and a candidate for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Office of Endangered Species and California Department of Fish and Game. The East Mesa is one of four crucial habitat areas in California, and the East Mesa ACEC was designated for protection of the species in 1980. Studies have shown that the crucial habitat extends west and north of the original ACEC boundaries. Cultural resources along the Lake Cahuilla shoreline extend further to the east than originally indicated. These resources, as well as wildlife, would benefit from the added protection provided by the multiple use guidelines of Class L.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.

TABLE 2-1 DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale
10	Change all Class "M" areas within the East Mojave National Scenic Area to Class "L". Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Modify Proposal: Exclude the Mescal Range Alternative C: Reject amendment (no action).	This action would meet resource protection objectives of the East Mojave National Scenic Area Management Plan and would assure effective reclamation of impacts from mining and recreation use. The change would affect three areas (approximately 120,000 acres) which make up about 10% of the Scenic Area.	Adopt Alt A	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.
11	Change the Multiple Use Class from "M" to "I" in the area adjacent to the Dumont Dunes "open area"; change motorized vehicle access from "limited" to "open." Alternative A: Add Area 2. Alternative B: Add Areas 2 and 3. Alternative C: Add Areas 2, 3 and 4. Alternative D: Reject amendment (no action).	Expansion of the Class I area would encompass areas historically used for camping and would provide safe areas for novice OHV users to learn to ride. It would also provide more identifiable boundaries to the open area. These boundaries will assist management of the area and reduce cross-country use in the limited area surrounding the open area.	Adopt Alt B	Areas 2 and 3 would include the majority of the historic OHV use area, provide for family and individual OHV activity, and would improve the boundary manageability.
12	Change the Multiple Use Class of an area on the north end of Ivanpah Dry Lake, adjacent to Interstate 15 and the Nevada border, from "L" to "M" for construction of an airport. Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	The airport is to accommodate air services for a Nevada casino clientele and to provide a facility for air ambulance service. Owing to the desired runway length (7,000 ft) and to prevailing winds from the south, an airport is not feasible on the Whiskey Pete's Casino property. The Ivanpah Dry Lake location places the airport near the existing Nevada casino/hotel which also contains the operation's administrative offices.	Reject Amendment	Airport access to a Nevada casino would potentially increase aircraft traffic, necessitating restricted use of two interstate utility corridors for future transmission lines. The change would also result in "spot zoning" for a single, non-resident user which is not in accord with the Desert Plan. There would be impacts on soil and wildlife.

TABLE 2-1 DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale
	UTILITY CORRIDORS			
13	Delete a portion of Utility Corridor M. Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	Since the Desert Plan was adopted in 1980, new data has been obtained about significant wildlife and cultural resources that occur along the ancient shoreline of Lake Cahuilla and adjacent areas. The County of Imperial has activated a utility corridor along the west side of the East Highline Canal for use by the Imperial Irrigation District as a route for a 230kv transmission project (Coachella Valley Niland-El Centro). The cost and timeframe of mitigating the anticipated impacts of placing a transmission project within Corridor M would contraindicate use of the corridor as long as an alternative is available.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.
14	Delete a Segment of Utility Corridor E (1 mile by 9 miles) within the East Mojave National Scenic Area. Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	Utility Corridor E currently extends one mile into the Scenic Area along part of the eastern boundary. This amendment would delete that portion of the corridor, leaving a 2-3 mile-wide developable corridor. The proposal would conform to Scenic Area objectives for visual resource management and would eliminate constraints imposed by a wilderness study area in this portion of the East Mojave.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.
15	Delete Contingent Utility Corridor W. Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	The Desert Plan listed this corridor as having potential for future development, but required a Plan Amendment to designate it formally as a utility corridor. The East Mojave Plan determined that such development would not conform to resource management objectives and recommended that the corridor be eliminated from future consideration.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.

TABLE 2-1 DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale
	MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS			
16	Change motorized vehicle access in the Chuckwalla Dune Thicket ACEC from "limited" to "closed." Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	The ACEC Management Plan for this ACEC recommended closure of this area of approximately 2000 acres for protection of significant and sensitive wildlife values from inadvertent damage by vehicles.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.
17	Change motorized vehicle access in the Palen Dry Lake ACEC from "limited" to "closed." Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	The ACEC management plan for this ACEC recommended closure of the area for protection of cultural resources from motorized vehicle use.	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.
	LIVESTOCK GRAZING			
18	Prohibit livestock grazing south of Interstate-10 in the Ford Dry Lake Allotment. Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Reject amendment (no action).	"Recent loss of the entire population of 50 mountain sheep in the Warner Mountains to pneumonia as a result of *Pasturella hemolytica* infection in conjunction with known recent contact with domestic sheep indicates a fatal infection introduced by domestic sheep to the mountain sheep population. Domestic sheep have also been documented as a source of infection by William J. Foreyt (ref.). Our plans to augment the bighorn sheep population in the Chuckwalla Mountains will be threatened if the Ford Dry Lake Allotment, listed as ephemeral range and grazed intermittently, remains open to domestic sheep grazing."	Adopt Amendment	Amendment adopted for reasons given in proponent's submission.

TABLE 2-1 DESCRIPTION OF AMENDMENTS

Amendment Number	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Preferred Alternative	Rationale
19	Establish a new ephemeral grazing allotment near Daggett. Alternative A: Adopt amendment. Alternative B: Modify proposal: Camp Rock Road as eastern boundary. Alternative C: Reject amendment (no action).	"I have agricultural lands in the Newberry Springs area that I winter the sheep on; I also have grazing area in the Stoddard Valley sheep lease. In the past when I trail the sheep from Newberry springs fields to the Stoddard Valley lease, I have acquired a trailing permit from the BLM to pass through these lands I am now asking to be amended to ephemeral grazing use."	Reject Amendment	Changing a trailing use to emphemeral grazing still results in obtaining an authorization for putting sheep out; and a trailing permit may be required under some circumstances. The two uses are different authorizations and do not automatically allow both to occur simultaneously. Also, the 'I-40 compromise policy' is not to increase grazing south of I-40. In addition, there is a potential impact to bighorn sheep.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Amendment Nineteen:
New Ephemeral Grazing Allotment near Daggett

Grazing Management

The proposed Daggett Allotment would be classified as ephemeral range. Annual forbs and grasses are the major forage component. Ephemeral forage production can vary extremely from year to year, requiring management flexibility in prescribing stocking rates and season of use. If approved, the BLM would issue a grazing lease to a qualified applicant under 43 CFR 4110.

Allotments classified as ephemeral would be managed under ephemeral authorizations. Grazing use authorization would be issued after an interdisciplinary team, along with the grazing operator, made a field examination of the allotment and determined whether production of 200 pounds per acre of dry weight would be available for turnout. The 200 pounds per acre determination is based upon the judgment of experienced range conservationists. Photographs would be taken of the production at turnout to insure standardization. Production clip plots would be used to verify estimates. The allowable grazing use would not exceed a level that would leave an average of 200 pounds residual forage.

The proposed allotment does not have structural range improvements (fences, water developments, etc). If sheep were authorized, the allotment would not require fencing; however some type of water system would have to be developed. Due to the lack of perennial water, the most practical water system would be to haul water. Portable troughs would be laid out adjacent to roads and a water truck would be used to fill the troughs. This is a common practice on ephemeral sheep allotments.

The size of the allotment and the estimated ephemeral forage production would limit the number of sheep to one band.

TABLE 2-2

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

Resource	Unit of Measure	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Percent Change	New Percent of Desert
Multiple Use Class					
C	Acres	1,900,000	1,900,000	0	15.9
L	Acres	5,902,000	6,151,440	4.2	51.4
M	Acres	3,400,000	3,142,410	-7.6	26.3
I	Acres	520,000	528,150	1.6	4.4
Unclassified	Acres	249,000	249,000	0	2.1
Vehicle Access					
Open	Acres	505,000	513,150	1.6	4.3
Limited	Acres	9,251,000	9,237,464	0.15	77.2
Closed	Acres	1,963,000	1,968,386	0.27	16.4
Undesignated	Acres	251,000	251,000	0	2.1
ACECs					
Added	Number	0	3		
	Acres	0	14,797		
Deleted	Number	0	3		
	Acres	0	5,360		
Net Change	Number	0	0		
	Acres	0	+9,437		
Livestock Grazing					
Ephemeral Allotments	Number	19	19		
	Acres	1,351,118	1,315,818		
Ephemeral/Perennial Allotments	Number	25	25		
	Acres	3,036,267	3,036,267		
Perennial Allotments	Number	14	14		
	Acres	720,522	720,522		

CHAPTER 3
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

CHAPTER THREE

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

INTRODUCTION

The affected environment refers to the area which may be impacted by a proposed amendment. For some amendments, this may be an extremely limited area; for others, it may apply to the entire California Desert Conservation Area.

This chapter describes the affected environment for each amendment. Additionally, information on the amendment areas can be found in several other publications. These include the following:

- The California Desert Conservation Plan (including overlays), 1980.
- The Appendices for the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Plan, CDCA, September, 1980.

AMENDMENT ONE:
NEW ACEC AT RODMAN MOUNTAINS CULTURAL AREA

Cultural Resources

The Rodman Mountains Cultural Area contains more than two dozen petroglyph sites associated with aboriginal trails, lithic tool scatters, rock rings, bedrock metates, and other features indicative of prehistoric use of the area. These sites are located on the extensive lava flow that descends southeast-to-northwest from Pipkin Cinder Cone, situated in the center of the Rodman Mountains.

The Cultural Area is significant because it provides an opportunity for a systematic study of rock art which may yield information on the stylistic changes and development of rock art motifs within the California Desert and the Great Basin of the Western United States. The petroglyph sites could also provide data on the association of rock art with the settlement/subsistence activities of aboriginal populations. Few petroglyph localities within the California Desert offer such possibilities for education, interpretation, scientific research, and aesthetic enjoyment.

Wildlife

There are no known State or Federally-listed wildlife species within the proposed Rodman Mountains ACEC. Species of special management concern that occur in the area are the Golden Eagle and the Desert Bighorn Sheep. The Golden Eagle is frequently observed here and is known to nest throughout the

adjoining mountains. There is a permanent bighorn herd in the Newberry Mountains just to the northwest of the ACEC. It is thought that this herd may use the ACEC area seasonally as they move between the Rodman and Newberry Mountains.

Vegetation

There are no known State or Federally-listed plants within the proposed ACEC. Vegetation is typical of the Mojave Desert and consists predominantly of creosote bush scrub of moderate density and diversity.

Recreation

Recreational use in the area consists primarily of sightseeing and vehicular touring. Visitor use is generally moderate and mostly single-day use with little associated camping.

Wilderness

The proposed ACEC falls within the Rodman Mountains WSA which was recommended as suitable for wilderness designation by the Desert Plan, 1980.

AMENDMENT TWO:
NEW ACEC ADJACENT TO RED ROCK CANYON

Wildlife

The desert tortoise (Gopherus agassizi) has been found in the proposed ACEC area. The tortoise is a BLM sensitive species and is under consideration for Federal listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened or endangered. The California Fish and Game Commission is also considering listing the tortoise as threatened. The Mojave ground squirrel (Spermophilus mojavensis) may occur in portions of the affected area. It is listed as threatened by the California Fish and Game Commission and is a Category 2 candidate for Federal listing.

The area is also a known raptor nesting and foraging area. Species known to nest and roost here include the golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), prairie falcon (Falco mexicanus), great-horned owl (Bubo virginianus), barn owl (Tyto alba) and the kestrel (Falco sparverius). A seasonal closure for all human uses, enforced by the State Parks Department, is in effect during the raptor nesting period. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Red Rock Canyon State Park currently affords protection for wildlife by controlling OHV use.

Vegetation

Four significant protected native plants occur in the proposed ACEC area. The Red Rock tarweed (Hemizonia arida) is a BLM sensitive species and a Category 1 candidate for listing by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service(USFWS). The plant is listed as rare by the State of California and 1b by the California Native Plant Society (This listing means the plant is rare throughout its range and

judged by CNPS to be vulnerable under present circumstances.) Charlotte's phacelia (Phacelia nashiana) is a BLM sensitive species which the CNPS considers vulnerable under present circumstances. The MOU with Red Rock Canyon State Park affords the plants some protection by controlling OHV use. There may be long-range threats from mining.

Recreation

There are four designated OHV routes of travel in this area. Vehicle use is restricted or prohibited on the Nightmare Canyon route during part of the year. There is frequent day use of the area for hiking by people enjoying the area's scenic qualities and interesting native flora and fauna.

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Four cultural resource sites have been recorded within the proposed ACEC, three prehistoric and one historic. Two of the prehistoric sites, a quarry and a special task area, are common in the region, but the other site, a geoglyph, is rare and unique. The historic site is associated with late 19th or early 20th century mining and is a common type in the region.

The proposed ACEC is within the Ricardo Formation, which is a rich source of 8-10 million-year-old vertebrate fossils. These have been a standard of comparison for similarly-aged fauna in western North American for over 75 years. There are many known fossil localities within the proposed ACEC.

AMENDMENT THREE:
NEW ACEC AT DEDECKERA CANYON

Wildlife

The dolomite cliffs of the Last Chance Range provide nesting and roosting habitat for raptors as well as habitat for bighorn sheep. A water source for bighorn was constructed in an unnamed canyon within the proposed ACEC in 1975.

Vegetation

The proposed ACEC contains the July gold (Dedeckera eurekensis) which is a Category 2 candidate for listing by the USFWS. The cliffs of the Last Chance Range also provide habitat for many plant species endemic to the Death Valley Region.

Cultural Resources

The BLM has no record of a cultural resource inventory having been undertaken or of cultural resources having been identified within this area. The data is insufficient to evaluate the cultural resource sensitivity of this area.

Recreation

There is only one designated route (F1794) that runs through the proposed

ACEC. This route is referred to as the Eureka/Saline Corridor and is maintained under a cooperative agreement between the Bureau and the Gear Grinders Four Wheel Drive Club of Ridgecrest (a member club of the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs).

Route F1794 is a popular vehicle corridor among 4WD vehicle enthusiasts. It receives an estimated 4000 visitor use hours per year in the vicinity of the proposed ACEC. The route generally follows a dry wash that is bordered by steep canyon walls. Very little, if any, trail proliferation has occurred. Some visitors to the area hike up side canyons to examine the proposed ACEC's unique flora and fauna.

Wilderness

The area of the proposed ACEC falls within the portion of the Saline Valley Wilderness Study Area which the Bureau has recommended as suitable for wilderness designation. The Desert Plan recommended that the Eureka-Saline Corridor be maintained open to 4WD vehicles. This area is currently managed as Class L under the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review, 1987 (IMP).

AMENDMENT FOUR:
ENLARGE COYOTE MOUNTAINS ACEC (No. 62)

Paleontology

The existing Coyote Mountains Fossil Site ACEC and some of the surrounding terrain are part of the famous Imperial Formation, a fossil-bearing strata. This formation contains extensive accumulations of marine invertebrate fossils which reveal valuable information about the diversity and evolution of marine life which once flourished in the ancient seas of the present California Desert. The overall invertebrate fauna includes foraminifers, bryozoans, corals, oysters, scallops, clams, snails, crustaceans, sea urchins, and sand dollars. Rock types or geologic structures include Miocene volcanics, Pleistocene nonmarine deposits, and pre-Cenozoic granitic and metamorphic rocks. More recently, marine vertebrate fossils have been found, including remains of sharks, rays, bony fishes, sea turtles, sea cows, and baleen whales.

Cultural Resources

Little formal archaeolgical inventory was conducted within the Coyote Mountains during the preparation of the Desert Plan. From several transects, only a single chipping station was found. More recent studies by Cerutti (1985) located a spectacular and unusual complex of pit and groove petroglyphs etched into a vertical sandstone face. This rock art may be duplicated else where in the area, since such sandstone surfaces are abundant.

Wildlife

The species of particular concern in this area is the magic gecko (Anarbylus switaki). It is a State-listed threatened species and is a candidate for

Federal listing. The species is associated with both extrusive and intrusive granitis exposures, as well as intrusive volcanic formations. It has not yet been collected at elevations greater than 600 meters but may be present at higher elevations. It is apparently restricted to rock habitats in a narrow zone of the desert foothills of the Peninsular Range.

Recreation

This is an attractive recreation area because of its resource values and spectacular scenery. The unusual dome-like white sandstone formations receive the greatest use. Popular recreation activities include hiking, rock hounding, backpacking, nature study, sightseeing, fossil collection, and desert exploration. The ACEC area receives approximately 1000 visitor use days annually, mostly in non-motorized use. The area is closed to off-highway (OHV) use.

Wilderness

The existing ACEC and the proposed expansion lie within the Coyote Mountain WSA (#CDCA 373). This WSA has been recommended as nonsuitable for wilderness designation and is currently managed as Class L under the Interim Management Policy.

AMENDMENT FIVE:
DELETE CAMP IRWIN BOUNDARY ACEC (NO. 28)

The majority of the area designated as ACEC #28 in the 1980 Plan is managed by the military, leaving approximately 300 acres under BLM administration. Recent surveys by the Barstow Resource Area showed that none of the cultural sites for which this ACEC was designated occur on public lands. There are no other resources of special management concern in the area.

AMENDMENT SIX:
DELETE KRAMER HILLS ACEC (NO. 38)

A 100 percent pedestrian survey of the ACEC in 1984 and again in 1986 by BLM archeologists failed to locate any unique or significant cultural resources within the ACEC. The resources encountered were scatterings of flakes and relatively common tools. No values were discovered warranting special management. There are no other resources of special management concern in the area.

AMENDMENT SEVEN:
DELETE DALE LAKE ACEC (NO.51)

A 100 percent pedestrian survey by two BLM archeologists in 1987 failed to locate significant cultural resources within the ACEC. Previously recorded sites could not be relocated, suggesting mapping errors. Three newly found sites were not considered to be unique or significant. No other resources of special management concern are within the area.

AMENDMENT EIGHT:
CHANGE CLASS "M" TO CLASS "L" IN YUHA DESERT MANAGEMENT AREA

Historical Background

The Yuha Desert has long been a source of management concern for the BLM. The first formal attempt to balance resource values with other public land uses was the 1975 Yuha Desert Management Plan. A year later, the Bureau set up a competitive vehicle course designed so that archaeological sites would be protected. The CDCA Plan of 1980 designated 40,000 acres as the Yuha Basin ACEC, in acknowledgment of the sensitivity of wildlife and cultural resources to recreational activities and other uses. Management of the area was defined by the ACEC Management Plan (1981) which allowed continued use but added stipulations to protect sensitive resources. In 1982, the first route approval process for this area was completed, and in 1983 the Yuha Desert Wildlife Habitat Management Plan was published.

Resource values continued to deteriorate despite the above actions. In response, the Bureau prepared yet another plan, the Yuha Desert Management Plan (1985). This plan was designed to halt resource decline through a series of management actions to control vehicle use. Concerns surfaced by the plan led to a 55 percent expansion of the Yuha Basin ACEC to about 65,000 acres (1986).

The proposed change in the multiple use classification of the Yuha Desert from Class M to Class L would provide further protection for the important resources found there.

Wildlife

The southeastern Yuha Basin is one of four optimal habitat areas for the flat-tailed horned lizard (FTHL), a Category 2 candidate for Federal listing and a BLM sensitive species. The FTHL was once widespread in desert portions of southeastern California, southern Arizona and adjoining portions of Sonora and Baja California, Mexico. However populations have been declining significantly in some parts of its range (Turner et al, 1978, 1980; Turner and Medica, 1982). Three other optimal habitat areas within the California Desert are: the area north of Ocotillo Wells and Benson Dry Lake, southern East Mesa, and the area south of Superstition Mountain.

Since the initial Desert Plan decisions were made in 1980, BLM biologists have found significant decreases in FTHL relative abundance in portions of all of the four optimal habitat areas except the Superstition Mountain area (Olech, 1987). The USFWS Field Office at Laguna Niguel has recommended that the status of the FTHL be elevated to Category 1. The species has become a candidate for listing by the California Department of Fish and Game. Pursuant to BLM policy (Manual 6840) it is incumbent upon the Bureau to manage crucial FTHL habitat to preclude the need to list the species. The Bureau is implementing this policy by preparing a species management plan, with input from the California Department of Fish and Game, the USFWS, and the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee for the FTHL.

Despite the observed decreases in population, the Yuha retains a number of sections containing good quality FTHL habitat. The proposed amendment contains approximately 16 sections which are classed as Category 1 habitat. The objectives for Category 1 are to minimize habitat deterioration and loss.

Vegetation

Thurber's pilostyles (Pilostyles Thurberi) occur in unusually high numbers in the Yuha Desert area. P. thurberi has no special State or Federal designation. The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) considers the species to be limited in distribution, but not endangered.

Cultural Resources

The significance of cultural resources in the West Mesa area has long been recognized. Management plans, National Register quality sites and districts as well as research projects all attest to the variety and complexity of archaeological values in the area. New aggressive management is required to protect these resources.

There has been considerable archaeological work in the Yuha area since adoption of the Desert Plan. This began with finalization of a Class II statistical inventory of the Lake Cahuilla shoreline region. Westec Services (Gallegos 1980) reported that the density of sites along the relict beach line was substantially greater than that in surrounding areas.

Many archaeological sites are listed on the National Register. Nearly 100 are included in the Yuha Basin Discontiguous District. This zone of prehistoric sites is unusual, since it represents a rare concentration of paleo-Indian artifacts (von Werlhof 1977). The study area is also noteworthy because of the presence of at least six geoglyphs. These ground figures are currently considered eligible for the National Register and are considered to possess high Native American sensitivity. In addition to these significant features, several cremations occur within the area which also contain critical Native American sensitivities.

The archaeological resources which helped stimulate preparation of the management plans were identified by a large number of inventory efforts. Principle among these was the work by Imperial Valley College, led by von Werlhof. Hundreds of sites were recorded by field classes. According to current records, over 24 sections now contain 10 or more recorded archaeological sites. This is an unusual concentration of resources. This data served not only as a stimulus for altering BLM's management but also as the basis for the National Register nomination. Additional inventory in the area is summarized in Gallegos (1980) and in the Yuha Desert Management Plan (1985).

Several sites have been subject to scientific data recovery and excavation (Gallegos 1984, Shackley 1984, and Schaefer 1986). Each of these projects dealt with sites located along the relict shoreline of Lake Cahuilla. Results revealed that subsurface archaeological material is present in the study area and consists of valuable environmental, ecological, and artifactual data.

Recreation

Three to five competitive OHV events occur within the Yuha Desert area south of Interstate 8 each year. An additional four or five events occur in the South Plaster City area. These races are confined to a designated race course system for which all resource studies have been completed. Pit, start, finish, and spectator areas are not allowed in Multiple Use Class L. Therefore, the Dunaway Staging Area is excluded from the proposed class change.

Approximately 30,000 visitor use days (VUD) of general recreation use occur in the Yuha Desert each year.

Lands

Over the past two years the Yuha Desert area has been identified by Imperial County, the State of California and private industry as potentially suitable for development of a prison site, a sanitary landfill, or a hazardous waste facility. Interest has been on the rise in recent months.

AMENDMENT NINE:
CHANGE CLASS "M" TO CLASS "L" IN EAST MESA AREA

Historical Background

In 1980, the Desert Plan designated the East Mesa area as Class M. It further designated several ACECs for cultural resources and a wildlife Habitat Management Area. Management plans were completed in the early 1980s. Since that time, a large amount of original inventory on cultural resources and wildlife has provided data indicating that a Class L designation would be more suitable to the East Mesa than the current Class M.

Wildlife

There are four species of special management concern known to occur in the proposed amendment area: the flat-tailed horned lizard, the Colorado Desert fringe toed lizard, the Yuma clapper rail, and the California black rail.

Flat-tailed horned lizard(FTHL). (See data on FTHL under Amendment 8.) Although significant decreases in FTHL relative abundance have occurred in portions of East Mesa (especially in southeastern East Mesa), blocks of good habitat remain. The amendment area contains 55 sections of Category 1 habitat. Management objectives for Category 1 are to minimize habitat deterioration and loss.

Specifically, the proposed amendment area contains 19 sections of high, 15 sections of medium, and 36 sections of low (FTHL) relative abundance, as indicated by the most recent field data available. Additional areas with a very high potential for being high value habitat are currently unsurveyed.

Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizard. The Colorado Desert fringe toed lizard is a Category 2 candidate for Federal listing. The species has been observed within the proposed amendment area, although specific intensive inventories have not yet been conducted.

Yuma clapper rail. The Yuma clapper rail is State-listed as threatened and Federally-listed as endangered. The species is migratory and breeds in freshwater marshes from Needles south along the Colorado River, in marshes near the Salton Sea, and along irrigation canals in the Imperial Valley, including the East Highline Canal. Dense cattails are required for nesting, and crayfish form a major portion of this bird's known diet. USFWS biologists observed 17 Yuma clapper rails in the seep wetland south of the All American canal between Drops 3 and 4 on April 30-May 1, 1981. On May 16, 1984, three clapper rails responded to taped vocalizations. The high numbers of this species found here in the past and the uncertainty connected with breeding habitats on the Colorado River and the Salton Sea underscore the importance of the wetland between Drops 3 and 4 as rail breeding habitat (USDI, FWS, 1988).

California black rail. The California black rail is a State-listed threatened species and a Category 2 candidate for Federal listing. Inland marsh habitat for this sparrow-sized rail is usually characterized by sedges, saltgrass, and bulrush. In the seep wetlands between Drops 3 and 4 of the All American Canal, black rails were heard calling primarily from cattails, but also from areas containing willows, tamarisk, arrowweed, and pampas grass. On April 10, 1984, 33 black rails responded on the south side of the canal, and five additional birds were heard on the north side. Thus, 38 birds represent the minimum number of black rails using these wetlands. This census indicated that the seep wetlands between Drops 3 and 4 contain a significant breeding population of California black rails.

Pursuant to BLM policy, it is incumbent upon the Bureau to (1)manage wildlife populations and habitat to preclude the need to list candidate species and to (2)improve Federally-listed species populations and their habitat in order to enable delisting. The Bureau has similar policies regarding State-listed species.

Cultural Resources

The archaeological resources of the East Mesa are found in the western portion and are concentrated along a broad band associated with the irregular shoreline of relict Lake Cahuilla. This shoreline has long been recognized as a zone of intense prehistoric use (Gallegos 1980).

Lake Cahuilla was a large fresh water lake, which stretched from below the Mexican border to north of Indio, California. It drew prehistoric populations to its shores for food gathering. The archaeological site densities now found there--up to 25 sites per square mile--are nearly unparalleled in the California Desert. These sites contain temporary camps with evidence of food preparation, ceramic scatters, occasional lithic reduction stations, and rarely, cremations.

Recorded sites were documented as long ago as the 1920s by Malcolm Rogers, and many others followed. Imperial Valley College contributed the bulk of data (see for example von Werlhof 1977, 1978a, 1978b, 1979). Since adoption of the Desert Plan in 1980, there have been reports of sites containing significant buried deposits (Gallegos, 1986 and Schaefer, 1987). One site, for example, contained only a few pottery sherds on the surface, but excavation revealed the presence of an artifact-rich hearth feature. Closer surface scrutiny

indicated that as many as eight additional hearth features are present. This newly recognized possibility for buried deposits extends north for a considerable distance and probably applies to the entire East Mesa shoreline.

The Bureau has initiated management actions to protect archaeological values in the western portion of East Mesa. A sand and gravel management plan (1983) was developed to allow extraction while protecting cultural resources. The plan prohibited material removal from several areas. Four ACECs were established on the last remnants of intact shoreline in the southern part of the East Mesa. Their plans call for prohibition of new sand and gravel extraction, in order to preserve remaining shoreline features and associated archaeology.

Nomination of portions of the East Mesa shoreline to the National Register of Historic Places has been initiated. Located within Utility Corridor "M", this discontiguous district extends for nearly 27-miles from the International Border.

Recreation

Visitor use in the East Mesa is low, and consists primarily of OHV play and associated camping. This use is concentrated around the Gordon's Well area (which is excluded from the proposed class change). Competitive events have not been permitted within East Mesa since 1974.

Two Long Term Visitor Areas (LTVA), Hot Springs and Tamarisk, are located within the East Mesa. These two sites are also excluded from the proposed class change, since LTVA use cannot be characterized as "low to moderate" intensity, as required by Class L.

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

A large portion of the East Mesa is covered by geothermal leases or lease applications. Class L lands are available for geothermal, solar, and wind-powered generation facilities. Environmental assessments are required before any new surface disturbing activities are allowed.

Land Tenure Adjustment

Various locations within the East Mesa Desert have been identified by the County, State, and private industry as potentially suitable for development as a prison site and/or as a sanitary landfill. The area is desireable for such development because of its accessibility to water and power and its proximity to town. There has also been interest in leasing the lands for agricultural purposes.,

Under the Class M designation, lands are subject to disposal and use for agricultural development. Class L precludes both, subject to a plan amendment.

AMENDMENT TEN:
CHANGE CLASS "M" AREAS TO CLASS "L" IN EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

Three distinct regions within the East Mojave National Scenic Area were classified as Class M, or moderate use, by the 1980 Desert Plan: (1) the

Clark Mountains/Ivanpah Mountains/Mescal Range region; (2) a small area in the vicinity of the Aiken and Cima cinder mines; and (3) a fairly large region between Soda Lake and Halloran Springs. These areas cover roughly 120,000 acres, or about 10 percent of the public lands of the Scenic Area.

Wildlife

Desert bighorn sheep, a BLM sensitive species, range throughout the first region listed above. A resident herd estimated at 150 sheep inhabits the Clark Mountain area. At least seven white bighorn sheep (non-albino) were sighted during a 1984 aerial census. These white bighorns are apparently unique to the Clark Mountain Range. The Mescal Range and Ivanpah Mountains are classified as transient ranges. The Mescal Range is being considered as a potential area for future bighorn sheep transplants. Mule deer are also present in the affected area with greatest concentrations occurring on Clark Mountain.

Clark Mountain's slopes, bajadas, and surrounding valleys comprise good nesting and foraging habitat for raptors, such as golden eagles, prairie falcons, American kestrels, Cooper's hawks, red-tailed hawks, and ravens. The area also contains a variety of reptiles and amphibians, including thirteen species of snakes and fourteen species of lizards (Mitchell, 1978). The first recorded specimen of the banded gila monster in California was taken on the east slope of Clark Mountain (Bradley and Dean, 1966).

Species diversity is not as great in the Mescal Range and Ivanpah Mountains as at Clark Mountain. However, these areas do provide excellent hunting and nesting habitat for a variety of raptors and ravens.

The desert tortoise occurs on the eastern bajadas of the Ivanpah Mountains and the western bajadas of the Mescal Range. The tortoise is proposed for State listing as a threatened species and for Federal listing as a threatened or endangered species. Tortoise habitat falling within the affected area is classified as Category I habitat . No other State or Federal threatened/endangered species or BLM sensitive species are known to occur in the affected area.

Region 2 and 3 are characterized by a lower density of wildlife than region 1. The area provides habitat for small mammals, reptiles and foraging golden eagles and other raptors and avians.

Vegetation

The affected areas generally lie within the Creosote Bush Scrub Community. Portions of the Cima Dome Joshua Tree Woodland UPA (Unusual Plant Assemblage) and the Clark Mountain Rupicole UPA are included within the amendment area. No Federal- or State-listed threatened, endangered, or rare plant species are known from this area. Four BLM sensitive species are present, all of which are candidates for listing as threatened or endangered by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. They include Forsellesia pungens var. glabra, Erigeron parishii, Coryphantha vivipara var. alversonii, and Ferocactus acanthodes var. acanthodes.

Grazing Management

The amendment area includes portions of four livestock grazing allotments. Over 75 percent of the affected acreage lies in the Valley View allotment, with the remainder divided between the Kessler Springs, Valley Wells, and Clark Mountain allotments. Over 1900 cattle are authorized to graze yearlong on the 890,000 acres within these leases.

Wild Horses and Burros

There are two wild horse and burro herd management areas(HMAs) within the proposed amendment area. Burros are targeted for removal from the affected portion of the Clark Mountain HMA. A population of 75 burros will be maintained in the Lava Beds HMA.

Recreation

All vehicle use is restricted to existing routes of travel which provide back country access for sightseeing, rockhounding, day hiking, photography, etc. Segments of the Mojave Road and East Mojave Heritage Trail are included in the amendment area.

Cultural Resources

The limited extent of inventory undertaken within the three Class M areas precludes valid determination of overall sensitivity. However, a number of significant resources have been documented including a post glacial Lake Mojave site, a National Register Rock Art District, an historic townsite dating from the 1860s and locations of Native American religious value.

Visual Resources

One of the present Class M areas covers much of the Cinder Cones, one of the most visually distinctive regions of the East Mojave and a destination point for many Scenic Area visitors. The Ivanpah/Mescal Range area contains several miles of the East Mojave Heritage Trail, where visual quality is an important component of the user's enjoyment.

The recently approved Scenic Area Management Plan (USDI 1988) requires that most discretionary actions meet Visual Resource Management Class II guide lines; these require that an action may be seen, but should not attract the attention of the casual observer and should blend into the existing landscape. Nondiscretionary actions such as mining should attempt to meet these criteria, but are not required to do so.

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

Three active mines are located in the amendment areas. These include Aiken's cinder mine and two small gold mining operations. The rare earths mining at Mountain Pass and the bulk of the claims around that mining operation are outside the Scenic Area and would remain in Multiple Use Classes I (intensive use) or M. In the Scenic Area, Plans of Operation generally will require the filing of some financial guarantee for reclamation costs as a condition of approval.

AMENDMENT ELEVEN:
CHANGE CLASS "M" TO CLASS "I" AND VEHICLE ACCESS FROM "LIMITED" TO "OPEN" IN AREA ADJACENT TO DUMONT DUNES OHV AREA

Wildlife

There are no known Federal or State-listed threatened or endangered wildlife species within the planning area. However, two BLM sensitive fish species, the Amargosa pupfish (Cyprinodon nevadensis amargosae) and the Amargosa speckled dace (Rhinichthys osculus nevadensis), are documented in the Amargosa River within the Amargosa Canyon Natural Area ACEC. The Amargosa speckled dace is also a Category 2 candidate for Federal listing. There is no data indicating whether the distribution of either fish includes the Amargosa River between the Concrete Crossing and Highway 127. Wildlife in the area surrounding the current open area are typical of much of the Mojave Desert. They include the zebra-tailed lizard (Callisaurus draconoides), desert iguana (Dipsosaurus d. dorsalis), sidewinder (Crotalus cerastes), red racer (Masticophis flagellum piceus), kangaroo rat (Dipodomys merriami and D. deserti), coyote (Canis latrans), jackrabbit (Lepus californicus), golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetos), common raven (Corvus corax), and horned lark (Eremophila alpestris).

Within the dunes area, wildlife is essentially non-existent, due to a natural lack of habitat. A.R. Hardy and F.G. Andrews (1976) found two species of beetles which were new and unclassified and thought to be endemic to these dunes (Eucilinus n. sp. and Trigonoscuta n. sp.).

Vegetation

The dominant plant community surrounding the proposed amendment area is creosote /bursage (Larrae tridentata/Ambrosia dumosa). The area is generally lacking in vegetation because of the predominance of unstable sand. There are no known Federal or State-listed plant species and no BLM sensitive species or plant assemblages.

Recreation

The Dumont Dunes open area (OHV Area) (Area 1, Map 11, Appendix A) was designated an open area, Multiple Use Class I, by the Desert Plan in 1980. The primary recreational use in the area is dune riding in the main dune system. The Little Dumont Dunes to the west (Area 3, Map 11) attract young and novice riders. While four wheel drives and dune buggies are used, more than 70 percent of the dune vehicles are 3- or 4-wheeled all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

The OHV Area attracts approximately 60,000 Visitor Use Days (VUDs) each year, 33 percent from southern Nevada and the remainder from the Los Angeles Basin. A Visitor Use Day at Dumont Dunes is defined as one visitor camping and OHV-riding for 13.7 hours. The prime season of use is from October through May, with the greatest visitation occurring on holiday weekends. Easter week and the Thanksgiving and President's Day weekends receive an estimated 18,000 VUDs each.

Only 16 percent of the use is day use (1 day stay, but not overnight camping), probably because of the distance most visitors must travel to reach the

dunes. Day users are usually groups of 2 to 4 people, while longer term visitors tend to be groups of 5 to 50 or more people. Since there are no facilities, camping is informal.

Camping on most weekends occurs along the two sand spits north of the main dune system (Area 2). In windy or hot weather, the camping pattern moves to the entrance road near the river and to the side wash. The large crowds on holiday weekends tend to fill the area between the main dune and the two sand spits and then spread out to the northeast along the face of the dune (see Area 2, Map 11, Appendix A). On these weekends, many visitors camp on the west side of the Little Dumont Dunes to escape the crowds and use these small dunes to train new or young riders.

Cultural Resources

Approximately 8 percent of the proposed amendment area has a high probability of containing significant cultural resources, as indicated by the environmental features, such as washes and desert pavement, which are probable sources of lithic raw materials. The high probability area is a triangular area between the north edge of the sand hills and northern boundary of the Area 2 portion of the proposed amendment. The remainder of the area has no cultural resources.

Wilderness

There are four Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) surrounding the amendment area: Saddle Peak Mountains (WSA 219), South Saddle Peak Mountains (WSA 220), Avawatz Mountains (WSA 221), and Kingston Range (WSA 222). The Desert Plan recommended WSAs 219, 220, and 221 as nonsuitable for wilderness designation.

Approximately 15 percent of WSA 222 in the area of the Kingston Range was recommended as suitable, while the remainder was recommended as non-suitable. All WSAs are being managed under the Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP) in order to to retain their wilderness values.

Visual Resources

The light-colored Dumont Dunes present a striking contrast to the dark craggy mountains nearby. This area has been rated as a Class II Visual Resource Management (VRM) area. This VRM classification means that "changes in any of the basic elements (form, line, color, texture) caused by a management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape. Contrasts are seen, but must not attract attention."

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

There are approximately 80 unpatented mining claims within the amendment area; 28 are within the existing OHV area, many being held by the same individuals. A plan of operations has been filed in the area of the Little Dumont Dunes.

The subject area contains about 12-square miles of the Amargosa Canyon-Dumont Dunes mineral withdrawal (PLO 5537). More than half of this withdrawal was recommended for revocation in 1982, but no action has yet been taken.

AMENDMENT TWELVE:
CHANGE A PORTION OF IVANPAH LAKE FROM CLASS "L" TO CLASS "M"

Land/Socio-Economic

Approximately 200 acres would be affected by this proposal, all on the surface of Ivanpah Lake immediately west of the Nevada stateline. The purpose is to permit construction of an airport with its runway in California and facilities in Nevada. The proposed airport would be operated by Whiskey Pete's, a Nevada casino. The facilities, located on the Nevada side of the state line, would be adjacent and convenient to the casino. Presently, the casino has no air facilities and all casino visitors arrive by car from the interstate highway.

Utility Corridors

The proposed area is within the confluence of two utility corridors designated in the Desert Plan, D (Boulder corridor) and BB (I-15 corridor). These two corridors cross the desert, providing a link between out-of-state power sources and the coastal urban area. A number of transmission lines are near or adjacent to the amendment area, including the authorized, though not built, Mead-Adelanto 500 kV transmission line.

Wildlife

With the exception of insects, occasional transient birds, and possibly some species of fairy shrimp, Ivanpah Lake is devoid of wildlife. However, the dry lake is surrounded by Category 1 desert tortoise habitat. This was one of the primary reasons for the original Class L designation and this reason is still valid. No other State or Federally-listed threatened/endangered species or BLM sensitive species are known to occur in the affected area.

Vegetation

There is no vegetation present in the playa. Scattered creosote (Larrea tridentata) and saltbush (Atriplex polycarpa) can be found as each end of the subject area. No threatened, endangered, or rare species, nor BLM sensitive species occur here.

Grazing Management

The land affected by this proposal lies within the Clark Mountain grazing allotment. This lease authorizes the yearly use of 127,000 acres by 156 cattle. Water holes lie one-half mile to the north and one and a half-miles to the south of the affected area.

Wild Horses and Burros

This site falls within the Clark Mountain Herd Management Area (HMA), which presently contains about 70 burros. They depend in part on two livestock water sources located on the lake bed. All burros will eventually be removed from this portion of the HMA to protect other resources.

Cultural Resources

There are no cultural resources on the lake bed.

Recreation

The entire lake bed is closed to vehicle travel to allow for non-motorized recreation such as land-sailing. However, the portion of the lake bed northwest of I-15 is not used for such events. A gas pit area for the Barstow to Vegas race is adjacent to the proposed airport site.

Visual Resources

The proposed Class M area is in the foreground view of travellers along I-15. The lake bed itself is one of the most distinctive features of the region. Several man-made features are located in the vicinity of the lakebed, including I-15, dirt roads, powerlines or pipelines, a small power plant, and the casinos of Stateline, Nevada.

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

No interest has been shown by the mining industry in extracting salts from this basin. However, a few companies have expressed interest in placer gold mining on the lake bed south of I-15.

AMENDMENT THIRTEEN:
DELETE PORTION OF UTILITY CORRIDOR M

Wildlife

Two species of special management concern may occur along the Corridor M route. The Yuma clapper rail is a State threatened and federally- listed endangered species. It is migratory and breeds in fresh water marshes from Needles south along the Colorado River, in marshes near the Salton Sea, and along irrigation canals in the Imperial Valley. The Calilfornia black rail is a State threatened species and a Category 2 candidate for Federal listing. Inland marsh habitat for this sparrow-sized rail is usually characterized by sedges, saltgrass, and bulrush.

Utility Corridor

In 1987 Corridor M was included in a preliminary study by the Imperial Irrigation District(IID) as a potential route for their Coachella Valley-Niland-El Centro 230 kV Transmission Project. The study was conducted in cooperation with the El Centro Resource Area office. During this process, the proponent was made aware of the significant cultural resources that occur along the ancient shoreline of Lake Cahuilla and adjacent areas. The EA concluded that impacts to cultural resource values would be extremely high. The cost and timeframe of mitigating the anticipated impacts (if they could be mitigated) was the deciding factor against utilizing the southern portion of Corridor M.

In addition, the County has now activated a utility corridor along the west side of the East Highline Canal. This corridor is being used by IID for the transmission project mentioned above; it will also be available for future projects.

Cultural Resources

Corridor M coincides with the relict shoreline of Lake Cahuilla for most of corridor's length. This conflict jeopardizes the protection and preservation of significant archaeological values. (See the discussion of Cultural Resources for Amendment 9).

Elimination of the majority of Corridor M would further the goals of the Desert Plan to maintain our cultural heritage as a legacy for future Americans.

AMENDMENT FOURTEEN:
DELETE ONE-MILE WIDE AND NINE-MILE LONG SEGMENT OF UTILITY CORRIDOR E

Utility Corridor

Corridor E is located along the eastern edge of the East Mojave National Scenic Area. North of Homer Mountain the corridor is two-miles wide; south of the mountain it widens to three-miles. It contains two highpower transmission lines and a maintenance road. No additional developments are proposed at this time. A segment, nine-miles long by one-mile wide and extending from Homer Mountain south to the railroad line, overlaps with the East Mojave National Scenic Area. The Scenic Area Management Plan recommended deleting the portion of the corridor within the Scenic Ares in order to eliminate potential visual conflicts within the Scenic Area. No further development is planned at this time.

Wildlife

The affected area is in the western half of Piute Valley. It is inhabited by a variety of small mammals, reptiles, game birds (Gambel's quail, mourning dove), and raptors typical of creosote bush scrub habitat. The area is classified as Category I desert tortoise habitat. The tortoise is proposed for State and Federal listing as a threatened or endangered species. The tortoise population located just across the state border in Nevada has been experi- encing a die-off since about 1983 for unknown reasons. The current status of the population in the affected area is unknown at this time. No other state or Federally-listed species or BLM sensitive species is known to occur in the affected area.

Vegetation

There are no threatened or endangered plant species.

Cultural Resources

No cultural resources are known for the segment, although significant prehistoric and historic resources are found at the adjacent Piute Spring ACEC.

Recreation

The Mojave Road (a four-wheel drive road) passes through the corridor. Four wheel drive activity on other secondary roads in the area is limited.

Visual Resources

This corridor segment is located along the eastern edge of the National Scenic Area, and is easily seen by travelers on the Mojave Road and by visitors to the Fort Piute area. The corridor's existing powerlines are seven-miles west of US 95 and are hardly visible from that highway.

AMENDMENT FIFTEEN:
ELIMINATE "CONTINGENT" CORRIDOR W

Utility Corridors

Contingent corridor W was identified by the Desert Plan as a potential location for a utility corridor. A Plan Amendment would be required for designation of the corridor. Only after such a designation could additional transmission lines or pipelines be considered. The corridor presently contains three highpower transmission lines and maintenance roads which were built prior to the Desert Plan.

Wildlife

The affected area contains a variety of habitats and wildlife species, the most notable of which is the desert tortoise in Ivanpah and Kelso Valleys. The desert tortoise is proposed for both State and Federal listing as a threatened or endangered species. The gilded flicker, a State-listed species, has also been reported in the Joshua tree woodland habitat occurring on Cima Dome. No other State or Federally-listed species or BLM sensitive species is known to occur in the affected area.

Vegetation

Creosote bush scrub and Joshua tree woodland communities make up the bulk of this contingent corridor. No State or Federally-listed species occur in the affected area. Weeds and pioneer species are more plentiful in the powerline rights-of-way than in the surrounding lands due to construction-related surface disturbance.

Recreation

A maintained road within Corridor W currently receives light to moderate use for recreation access. Portions of this road have been proposed as a segment of the East Mojave Heritage Trail.

Cultural Resources

There is no record of a cultural resource inventory conducted for this contingent utility corridor. However, the corridor does pass through areas representing a wide array of East Mojave cultural resources.

Visual Resources

This contingent corridor crosses the northern half of the East Mojave National Scenic Area and is visible from most viewpoints within this portion of the East Mojave. The corridor crosses two particularly noteworthy regions--the Cinder Cones and Cima Dome--which are among the key visual attractions of the Scenic Area.

AMENDMENT SIXTEEN:
CHANGE VEHICLE ACCESS FROM "LIMITED" TO "CLOSED" IN CHUCKWALLA DUNE THICKET ACEC (NO. 57).

The 2000 acre Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket ACEC is located just south of Interstate-10, eighteen-miles west of Blythe and two miles southeast of Ford Dry Lake. The ACEC was established to protect small pockets of dense palo verde woodland associated with a two-mile long dune system.

Wildlife

The ACEC provides a variety of habitats for reptiles and mammals. Some very specialized species found here are the Mojave fringe-toed lizard (Uma scoparia), the desert kangaroo rat (Dipodomys deserti), and the kit fox (Vulpes macrotes arsipus).

Vegetation

The dominant plants of the thicket are large palo verde trees (Cericidium floridium) with a few scattered ironwood trees (Olneya tesota). Mesquite is present but not as a dominant component of the thicket. Creosote bushes near the thicket are very large, with heights up to ten feet. No rare or endangered plants were found during a survey conducted in May, 1982.

The dense vegetation is attractive to both migrant and breeding birds and to large numbers of birds that forage in the area during the winter. During the Desert Plan inventory, a density of 3425 birds/100 acres was recorded, by far the highest density in any of the census plots in the California Desert.

Recreation

Along with other wildlife protection measures, the 1982 ACEC Plan closed the area to dune buggies and other motorized vehicles.

AMENDMENT SEVENTEEN:
CHANGE VEHICLE ACCESS FROM "LIMITED" TO "CLOSED" IN PALEN DRY LAKE ACEC(# 55)

Cultural Resources

Palen Dry Lake ACEC is located in an area of sand dunes along the southeast shoreline of Palen Dry Lake, between the lake and the southwest tip of the Palen Mountains. The 3,386 acre ACEC was designed to facilitate protection of a series of archaeological sites related to the lacustrine environment of pleistocene Palen Lake. Some of the earliest human remains in California are

found around the dry lake shores of the California Desert. Such clusters of sites contain great potential for yielding important information on the early history of human habitation in California, as well as on human adaption to a particular environment and reaction to changes taking place in that environment.

Recreation

During preparation of the ACEC activity plan, BLM staff noted the presence of vehicle tracks throughout the area, indicating the occurrence of some off-road vehicle activity. For protection of the resources, the ACEC was closed to off-road vehicle use by the 1981 ACEC plan.

Grazing Management

Approximately three sections in the southern portion of the ACEC are within the Ford Dry Lake Grazing Allotment, an ephemeral allotment. Limited sheep grazing has occurred in the past ten years.

AMENDMENT EIGHTEEN:
PROHIBIT GRAZING SOUTH OF INTERSTATE-10 IN THE FORD DRY LAKE ALLOTMENT

Grazing Management

The Ford Dry Lake Allotment is located in the Chuckwalla Valley, 20 miles east of Desert Center in Riverside County. The allotment is centered around Ford Dry Lake and encompasses 63,520 acres of public land north and south of I-10.

The grazing lease is an ephemeral sheep allotment; however, sheep grazing has not been authorized since 1980. The allotment management plan restricts grazing south of I-10 to day-use. Specifically, no sheep bedding or watering is authorized south of the Chuckwalla Road.

Wildlife

The present Ford Dry Lake Allotment boundary overlaps potential desert bighorn habitat south of I-10. This area of overlap is within the Chuckwalla Mountains Native Ungulate HMP area.

The portion of the allotment south of I-10 is also within Category I desert tortoise habitat.

Vegetation

The allotment is covered by moderate to low density creosote bush scrub, bisected by ironwood/palo verde washes.

AMENDMENT NINETEEN:
NEW EPHEMERAL GRAZING ALLOTMENT NEAR DAGGETT

Wildlife

The proposed allotment would be within the range of the Newberry Mountain bighorn sheep herd. Bighorn have been seen from Daggett Wash to Kane Springs. The herd consists of approximately 15 animals, four of which have been collared for studies. A big game guzzler has been installed east of the allotment to enhance bighorn habitat.

The desert tortoise is found in this area; tortoise densities range from 0-20 per square mile. No threatened or endangered wildlife species are known to occur in the subject area.

Vegetation

There are no threatened or endangered plant species. However there are two plant species of concern which occur on the proposed allotment. Sand linanthus (Linanthus arenicola) is an annual, one to ten centimeters in height. It flowers from March to April. Sand linanthus is listed in Category 3C by USF&WS (3C plants are not candidates), and is listed by the California Native Plant Society(CNPS). The second species, monkey flower (Mimulus mohavensis), is an annual herb which is 4-7 cm tall and flowers from April to June. It is a 1B candidate for State listing and is listed by the CNPS. Although Mimulus species, in general, are not very palatable, sheep may nibble the flowers and some of the leaves. Any disturbance of the soil expedites the spread of Monkey Flowers. This frequently occurs along gullies, washes, and slides where moisture supply is adequate.

Cultural Resources

The portion of the Boulder Utility Corridor within the proposed allotment was surveyed in 1978. Two cultural sites were located within the rights-of-way. There are no known historic or Native American religious sites present.

Wilderness

A portion of the proposed allotment east of Camp Rock Road would be within the Newberry Mountains WSA (No.206). The Desert Plan recommended most of this WSA as suitable for wilderness designation.

CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

CHAPTER FOUR

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides the scientific and analytic basis for the selection of the preferred alternative. It describes the effects that would result should each amendment be accepted, rejected or accepted in modified form. Both beneficial and adverse effects are presented. Knowledge of the area and best professional judgement (derived from observation and analysis of similar conditions and responses in similiar areas) have been used to estimate effects where the data is limited.

The analysis is based on the following assumptions:

- Funds and personnel will be available for implementation.
- Impacts will be monitored and adjusted as necessary.
- Minor adjustments in management may occur.
- Baseline data are accurate.

The discussion of each amendment is organized by resource. Only those resources that would be affected are discussed. A resource that is not expected to be affected is not addressed.

AMENDMENT ONE:
NEW ACEC AT RODMAN MOUNTAINS CULTURAL AREA

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Cultural Resources

Designation of the Rodman Mountain Cultural Area as an ACEC would assure that these cultural resources would receive the highest BLM priority for monitoring and funding. Necessary management would be developed, including, for example, signing, surveying, monitoring, enforcement, patrol, and data recovery, if necessary. These management actions would reduce the chances of loss of any of the unique and valuable resources present in the proposed ACEC.

Wildlife and Vegetation

More intensive management of the area could result in positive benefits to wildlife and vegetation thru monitoring, mitigation of disturbance, and increased ranger presence.

Recreation

Designation of the ACEC would result in long term enhancement of recreation opportunities thru the utilization of interpretive signing and through preservation of these unique resources for future viewers.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

The unique and significant resources present here would not receive the priority and intensive management they require. Long term loss through vandalism would continue. Although every effort would be made to mitigate these impacts it is possible that the necessary funding would not be available.

AMENDMENT TWO:
NEW ACEC ADJACENT TO RED ROCK CANYON

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Wildlife

Raptors are currently protected from human activity by the seasonal closure. An ACEC could allow greater restrictions on activities, such as grazing and mineral exploration and development, which could have negative effects on the habitat of raptors, the desert tortoise, and the Mohave ground squirrel.

Vegetation

Under an ACEC designation, additional restriction could be placed on possible mining operations, thus giving increased protection to the flora. The necessary protective actions would be developed and implemented through an ACEC management plan. Such plans and actions for ACEC's are given high priority by the Bureau.

Recreation

The impacts to recreational opportunities in this area would depend upon what restrictions were imposed upon ACEC plan completion. It is anticipated that the four designated routes of travel would remain open with only seasonal restriction on use

Cultural Resources and Paleontological Resources

Designation of this area as an ACEC would have little affect on cultural or paleontological resources. Under the Memorandum of Understanding between the BLM and Red Rock State Park, the area is currently managed as if it were within the State Park, except that mining and livestock grazing may occur. Current management of these activities under the guidelines of Multiple Use Class L, however, provides some protection. In summary, the area is already receiving special management attention, but an ACEC designation could permit additional restrictions on activities such as mineral exploration and grazing.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wildlife

Habitat for raptors, the desert tortoise, and the Mohave ground squirrel could be negatively affected by grazing and mineral exploration and development. Mitigation of these impacts to acceptable levels might not be feasible.

Vegetation

Future exploration and/or development of mineral, geothermal, or oil and gas resources could negatively impact the sensitive plant species found here, resulting in the need for listing. Mitigation to reduce these impacts to acceptable levels might or might not be feasible.

AMENDMENT THREE:
NEW ACEC AT DEDECKERA CANYON

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Wildlife and Vegetation

An ACEC could give added protection to the sensitive plant species July gold by controlling the activities of users of the Eureka-Saline Corridor, which passes directly through the plant's habitat. Even if Congress designates this area as wilderness, the open route could be a potential threat to adjacent resources. There would be little impact on bighorn sheep or raptors.

Cultural Resources

Designation of the area as an ACEC could be beneficial if the ACEC management plan required an inventory for cultural resources. The information provided by an inventory would be useful in planning and managing resources in the Last Chance Range and Eureka Valley, as well as in the ACEC, itself. However, the level of protection for cultural resources now known to exist would not be expected to increase, since the area is already managed under the Interim Management Policy and may, after congressional action, be managed as Class C.

Recreation

Since the only route within the proposed ACEC would remain open, there should be no effect on any recreation activities which are in conformance with the Interim Management Policy.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wildlife and Vegetation

Any proliferation of the Eureka-Saline Corridor or irresponsible activities by users of the route could have detrimental effects on sensitive plant species in the amendment area. Otherwise, there should be little or no impact, particularly if this area is designated as wilderness by Congress.

AMENDMENT FOUR:
ENLARGE COYOTE MOUNTAINS ACEC (NO. 62)

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Paleontological Resources

Paleontological resources discovered since establishment of the original ACEC

would be incorporated into the enlarged ACEC. Under ACEC management, these important fossil remains would receive increased management priority.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources would benefit from increased management priority resulting from ACEC designation.

Recreation

There would be minimal effect on recreational use in the amendment vicinity. Although the value of the area for recreational fossil collecting would be reduced, its value for nature study would be enhanced, since fossils would remain in place for public education and enjoyment. There could be an adverse effect on hobby fossil collection.

In April, 1988, the District Manager signed a temporary order prohibiting the collection of invertebrate fossils in the proposed ACEC expansion area. (Collection of vertebrate fossils is already prohibited on all public lands except by permit.) Approval of ACEC expansion would make this prohibition permanent, since this is a prescription of the ACEC management plan completed in 1987. Other areas in the Coyote Mountain vicinity and outside of the proposed ACEC could fill the need for recreational fossil collection. Fossil Canyon, for example, is a well-known site where fossils are easily accessible. It offers an alternative to the arduous trek into the Coyote Mountains.

Wilderness

Changing the prohibition on collection of invertebrate fossils from temporary to permanent would help protect the suitability of the Coyote Mountains WSA for designation as wilderness by assuring that a special feature of the WSA remains intact. Although this WSA is recommended as non-suitable by the Desert Plan, protection of wilderness values is required by the BLM's Interim Management Policy.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

The fossil record of the Coyote Mountains could be placed in jeopardy unless the ban on collection of invertebrate fossils were made permanent. This would also adversely affect the potential wilderness character of the WSA.

AMENDMENT FIVE:
DELETE CAMP IRWIN BOUNDARY ACEC (NO. 28)

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Cultural Resources

There would be no effect, since no unique or sensitive resources are present that warrant intensive management or the expenditures normally provided

ACECs. Deletion of the ACEC designation would not reduce the Bureau's obligation to comply with legislation designed to protect cultural resources on public lands.

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

There would be less restriction on mineral development on the BLM-managed public lands in the ACEC area. Although the subject land is designated Class M, the ACEC designation requires that mining in the area be preceded by submission of a Plan of Operations. Deletion of the ACEC designation would remove this requirement so that only a Notice would have to be submitted for an annual disturbance on less than five acres.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No. Action)

Rejection of the amendment would result in unnecessary expenditures for the development of an activity management plan for resources not warranting such special treatment. The Desert Plan would continue to portray this area as needing special management attention when no sensitive resources are present. In addition, there would be an unreasonable requirement for plans of operation on mining operations of five acres, because of the area having an ACEC designation.

AMENDMENT SIX:
DELETE KRAMER HILLS ACEC (NO. 38)

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Cultural Resources

There would be no effect, since no unique or sensitive resources are present that warrant intensive management or the expenditures normally provided ACECs. Deletion of the ACEC designation would not reduce the Bureau's obligation to comply with legislation designed to protect cultural resources on public lands.

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

There would be less restriction on mineral development in the ACEC area. Although the subject land is designated Class M, the ACEC designation requires that mining in the area be preceded by submission of a Plan of Operations. Deletion of the ACEC designation would remove this requirement so that only a Notice would have to be submitted for an annual disturbance on less than five acres.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No. Action)

Rejection of the amendment would result in unnecessary expenditures for the development of an activity management plan for resources not warranting such special treatment. The Desert Plan would continue to portray this area as needing special management attention when no sensitive resources are present. In addition, there would be an unreasonable requirement for plans of operation on mining operations of five acres, because of the area having an ACEC designation.

AMENDMENT SEVEN:
DELETE DALE LAKE ACEC (NO. 51)

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Cultural Resources

There would be no effect, since no unique or sensitive resources are present that warrant intensive management or the expenditures normally provided ACECs. Deletion of the ACEC designation would not reduce the Bureau's obligation to comply with legislation designed to protect cultural resources on public lands.

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

There would be less restriction on mineral development in the ACEC area. Although the subject land is designated Class M, the ACEC designation requires that mining in the area be preceded by submission of a Plan of Operations. Deletion of the ACEC designation would remove this requirement so that only a Notice would have to be submitted for an annual disturbance on less than five acres.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No. Action)

Rejection of the amendment would result in unnecessary expenditures for the development of an activity management plan for resources not warranting such special treatment. The Desert Plan would continue to portray this area as needing special management attention when no sensitive resources are present. In addition, there would be an unreasonable requirement for plans of operation on mining operations of five acres, because of the area having an ACEC designation.

AMENDMENT EIGHT:
CHANGE CLASS "M" TO CLASS "L" IN YUHA DESERT MANAGEMENT AREA

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

General

The overall philosophy for managing Class L as compared to Class M lands is manifest in greater attention to mining, vehicle use, and other intrusive activities and in higher priority for funding and staffing. In addition, public lands cannot be sold or disposed of within Class L but must undergo a change to Class M or "unclassified" status through a plan amendment, with scrutiny through an environmental assessment and public participation.

Wildlife

Class L management would benefit wildlife, particularly the flat-tailed horned lizard (FTHL), and would advance the Bureau's commitment to prevent listing of this candidate species.

Vegetation

Botanical resources, including Thurber's pilostyles, would benefit under Class L management.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources would receive additional protection under Class L management.

Recreation

This proposed change in multiple-use class would not affect general recreation, since recreation management practices of the 1985 Yuha Management Plan would remain unchanged. The change would also have no effect on the racing program. Competitive events would continue to be managed according to provisions of the Yuha Desert ACEC Plan and the Yuha Desert Special Management Plan. Races are currently restricted to an established course system, and all events are limited to the months between October 15 and February 15, to avoid active periods of the FTHL. The Yuha Desert OHV Staging Area at Dunaway Road would remain Class M and would be available for race starts, finishes and pits. Current restrictions against additional staging areas in the Yuha Desert would continue.

This alternative does not propose any additional route closures. Any future decisions on route closures will be based strictly on new data (either distributional or monitoring) on sensitive resources with full public involvement.

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

For locatable minerals, a plan of operations would be required for non-casual use of five acres or less, instead of a Notice, as required in Class M. There would be no effect on leasable of salable mineral operations, since both programs are allowed in Class L areas.

Lands

In order to sell or otherwise dispose of land, a Plan Amendment would be required under the Class L designation. Under the current Class M, lands are presumed to be available. Additionally, the Class L designation would preclude any agricultural entries.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

General

This alternative would place the management goals and philosophy of a large portion of the Yuha Desert in conflict with the goals and philosophy expressed in the 1985 Plan Amendment process. In 1985, many acres of public lands in the vicinity of Superstition Mountain were designated Class L, due to the presence of the same sensitive wildlife values found in the Yuha area. Denial

of the present amendment would cause management inconsistency in the western half of BLM"s El Centro Resource Area.

Wildlife

Several sections of FTHL habitat with high relative abundance would continue to be subject to conditions which are leading to significant decreases in the population of this species. The objective of retaining large, contiguous blocks of federally managed land of FTHL category 1 and 2 habitat would be especially vulnerable to failure. This lack of action might accelerate the "listing" process for this species.

Vegetation

Thurber's pilostyles, a CNPS-listed plant species, would remain under the potentially detrimental effects of Class M management.

Cultural Resources

Current management is not sufficient to protect the valuable cultural resources in this area. These would continue to be degraded under this alternative.

AMENDMENT NINE:
CHANGE CLASS "M" TO CLASS "L" IN EAST MESA AREA

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

General

The overall philosophy for managing Class L as compared to Class M lands is manifest in greater attention to mining, vehicle use, and other intrusive activities and in higher priority for funding and staffing. In addition, public lands cannot be sold or disposed of within Class L but must undergo a change to Class M or "unclassified" status through a plan amendment, with scrutiny through an environmental assessment and public participation.

The Class L designation would also be more compatible with the intent and goals of the 1985 BLM/Navy Cooperative Agreement amendment and with resources identified in that process. Currently, the multiple use classification of the proposed amendment area is not consistent with that of the area reclassified in the 1985 amendment.

Wildlife

The Class L designation would benefit all species of concern--the FTHL, the Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizard, the Yuma clapper rail, and the California black rail--for the reasons listed in Chapter 3.

Cultural Resources

Class L management would supplement current policies for handling sand and gravel extraction while protecting the valuable cultural resources found along the shoreline of ancient Lake Cahuilla.

Recreation

The proposed change in multiple-use class would have little effect on recreation on the East Mesa. Under existing management plans, the area is managed as a "limited area" for OHV use, with vehicles limited to approved routes. Competitive OHV events are currently prohibited in order to protect FTHL habitat. However, events could potentially be re-established if lizard monitoring should indicate that the area could support some events without significant impacts.

This amendment does not propose any additional route closures. Any future decisions on route closures would be based on new data (either distributional or monitoring) on sensitive resources with full public involvement.

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

For locatable minerals, a plan of operations would be required for non-casual use of five acres or less, instead of a Notice, as required in Class M. There would be no effect on leasable or salable mineral operations, since both programs are allowed in Class L areas.

Lands

The subject lands would not be available for uses such as landfills or prisons without undergoing a plan amendment to change the land use designation to Class M or "unclassified" status. An environmental assessment and public participation would be required. Additionally, the Class L designation would preclude any agricultural entries.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

General

This alternative would place the management goals and philosophy of a large portion of the East Mesa in conflict with the goals and philosophy expressed in the 1985 BLM/Navy Cooperative Agreement. In 1986, many acres of public lands in the East Mesa were designated Class L, due to the presence of the same sensitive wildlife values found in the area now under consideration. Denial of the present amendment would cause management inconsistency in the eastern half of BLM"s El Centro Resource Area.

Wildlife

Several sections of flat-tailed horned lizard habitat with high relative abundance would continue to be subject to conditions which are leading to significant decreases in the population of this species. The objective of retaining large, contiguous blocks of federally managed land of FTHL category 1 and 2 habitat would be especially vulnerable to failure. This lack of action might accelerate the "listing" process for this species.

Cultural Resources

Current management may not be sufficient to protect the valuable cultural resources in this area. These could continue to be degraded under this alternative.

AMENDMENT TEN:
CHANGE CLASS "M" TO CLASS "L" IN EAST MOJAVE NATIONAL SCENIC AREA

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Wildlife

Wildlife could benefit from greater control over road proliferation and surface disturbances associated with mining and other activities. In addition, Class L status would increase monitoring and analysis of cumulative impacts as promised in the Scenic Area Plan. Desert tortoise and desert bighorn sheep would benefit.

Vegetation

Sensitive plant species and Unusual Plant Assemblages would benefit from restricted use and the closer scrutiny given to mining operations disturbing less than five acres in Class L.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources would receive additional protection under Class L designation.

Recreation

Recreation opportunities would be enhanced to a limited extent by stricter controls on surface disturbing activity. Vehicular access to recreation sites should not be affected by the class change, although a few additional road closures may be proposed due to increased monitoring efforts.

Visual Resources

Visual resources would benefit from stricter controls on surface disturbing activities in Class L areas and from requirements for reclamation bonds on smaller mining operations that would otherwise go unbonded in Class M areas. Adoption of this alternative would conform to the Scenic Area Plan's objectives for scenic quality and land use.

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

The impact of these multiple use class changes on mining would be negligible. Most proposals for mining in these areas already meet the requirements for a Plan of Operation.

Lands

The proposed change to multiple-use class 'L' would require that utility distribution lines in these areas be buried, unless the burial would be more detrimental to the environment. This would benefit visual resources but could result in higher installation costs to inholders and possible destruction of tortoise burrows and/or cultural resources. New, permanent airstrips would also be prohibited under Class "L", with potential adverse impact on landowners. Access to private land would not be affected.

ALTERNATIVE B: Modify Proposal to Exclude Mescal Range Area

Wildlife

Continued unchecked development could result in reduced populations of some wildlife species such as bighorn sheep, mule deer, and raptors as thresholds of habitat loss and disturbance are reached. Cumulative impacts from small scale mining operations and other development activity could reach levels which would be inconsistent with bighorn management thus precluding the Mescal Range as a potential transplant area.

Vegetation

Similar impacts to vegetation would occur as described under Alternative A. The Clark Mountain Rupicole Unusual Plant Assemblage would be unaffected by this alternative.

Grazing Management and Wild Horse and Burros

Impacts would be the same as under Alternative A except that a slightly smaller area would benefit from the added restrictions that go with a Class L designation.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources in the Mescal/Ivanpah Range area would continue to receive insufficient protection. The two areas that would be changed to Class L would receive additional protection.

Recreation

Recreational activities depending on a natural-appearing environment would be impacted to a limited extent, owing to fewer controls on surface disturbing activities. Vehicular access might be slightly improved by increased road development.

Visual Resources

In the Mescal/Ivanpah area, visual resources could be adversely affected by mining activities on areas of less than five acres, since reclamation bonding would not be required. The cumulative effect of such small scale operations could create a major visual intrusion in this region of the Scenic Area. Excluding this area from the proposal would not conform to the Scenic Area Plan's objectives for scenic quality and land use.

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

There would be little effect on mining operations since most operations in the area disturb five or more acres and, therefore, require a Plan of Operations. Operations on smaller areas would require only a Notice.

ALTERNATIVE C: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wildlife

Continued unchecked development could result in reduced populations of some wildlife species (eg. bighorn sheep, mule deer, raptors, etc.). Rejection of the amendment could allow mining and other developments to reach levels which would be inconsistent with bighorn management. The Mescal Range area could be precluded as a potential transplant site for the bighorn.

Cultural Resources

Current management under Class M is not sufficient to protect valuable cultural resources. Potential degradation could occur under this alternative.

Visual Resources

A decline in scenic quality would be more likely under this alternative.

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

Rehabilitation of small scale mining operations (less than five acres) would be difficult due to the lack of bonding requirements and any resource analysis in advance of operations.

AMENDMENT ELEVEN:
CHANGE CLASS "M" to CLASS "I" AND VEHICLE ACCESS FROM "LIMITED" TO "OPEN" IN AREA ADJACENT TO DUMONT DUNES OPEN AREA

ALTERNATIVE A: Add Area 2 to the Existing Open Area (OHV Area), Change Class "M" to Class "I" in Area 2 (Map 11, Appendix A).

This alternative would expand the OHV Area north to an existing road and the Tonopah & Tidewater Railroad grade and south to the WSA 222 boundary. It would acknowledge historic use patterns and would provide manageable boundaries for the open area. While this change would not be expected to increase overall visitation to the Dumont Dunes area, OHV use would be expected to expand to the adjusted boundaries of the OHV Area.

Recreation

Recreational opportunities would be improved by adding to the open area many of the traditional camping areas near the main dune system. However, the

Little Dumont Dunes, historically used by young and novice dune riders, would not be included within this alternative. Additional law enforcement would be required to restrict use in this area.

Cultural Resources

About 350 acres of Area 2 is considered to have a high probability of containing cultural resources. Impacts on these resources could be mitigated through inventory and data recovery. Prior to opening the area, a cultural resource survey would be conducted. Significant sites would be avoided, protected or subjected to data recovery.

ALTERNATIVE B: Add Areas 2 and 3 to Existing OHV area. Change Class "M" to Class "I" in Areas 2 and 3.

This alternative is the same as Alternative A but it also adds to the OHV Area the Little Dumont Dunes and a corridor around the north end of Salt Spring Hills south of the Amargosa River.

Recreation

Recreation at the dunes would benefit, since the expanded OHV Area would include all of the historical recreation use areas. There would be a significant reduction in law enforcement problems caused by straying outside of the OHV Area, since the new boundaries would follow roads and land forms and would be identifiable by recreationists.

Impacts on wilderness, wildlife, and vegetation in surrounding areas would be significantly reduced by mitigation measures.

Although the open area would have a common boundary with the Salt Creek Hills ACEC, potential conflicts between incompatible uses would be minimal, because the ACEC Management Plan requires the construction of a fence on this portion of its boundary.

Cultural Resources

Same as Alternative A.

ALTERNATIVE C: Add Areas 2, 3, and 4 to Existing OHV Area. Change Class "M" to Class "I"in Areas 2, 3, and 4 (Map 11, Appendix A).

This alternative is the same as Alternative B, but also adds Area 4, the land north of the Amargosa River between Highway 127 and the river-crossing and the land south of Dumont Road.

Recreation

This alternative has the same beneficial effects as Alternative B. The northern boundary would be more manageable, since it would be entirely along

existing roads. Free play along these roads would increase maintenance of the access road and increase safety hazards by encouraging OHV use on this County road. Increased dust would further intensify the problem. This alternative would also encourage OHV trespass of private property. OHV activity would be permitted in the Amargosa River which would have negative impact on wildlife and water quality.

Wildlife

The OHV Area would include a portion of the Amargosa River. Recreational activities which might occur in the river could negatively affect two BLM sensitive fish, the Amargosa Pupfish (Cyprinodon nevadensis amargosae) and the Amargosa Dace (Rhinichthys osculus nevadensis).

Cultural Resources

Same as Alternatives A and B.

ALTERNATIVE D: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Recreation

This alternative would continue present use of the Dumont Dunes OHV Area and would continue the present restrictions on historic recreational use patterns adjacent to the existing open area. This historic use includes most of the camping areas on the mesa north of the Dumont Dunes and in the side wash which contains the access road. It also includes the Little Dumont Dunes in which young and novice dune riders can learn, safely separated from more advanced riders and dune buggies.

Attempting to restrict recreation use to the current OHV area which was set by the Desert Plan would result in continual law enforcement problems. The present boundary is unmanageable because the area of the dunes, themselves, changes constantly due to the shifting of the sands. More importantly, the original boundary did not include areas historically used for camping and novice riding.

OHV's from the open area would continue to encroach upon surrounding sensitive areas, causing the following impacts: proliferation of trails in Wilderness Study Areas; cross-country OHV use in the Salt Creek Hills ACEC; destruction of vegetation, wildlife and cultural resources.

AMENDMENT TWELVE:
CHANGE A PORTION OF IVANPAH DRY LAKE FROM CLASS "L" TO CLASS "M"

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Land/Socio-economic

The change to Class "M" would allow uses such as a permanent airport at the

site. While an airport would provide access to the nearby Nevada casino and probably increase the number of clientele, it could also conflict with the Utility Corridors D and BB, including existing and authorized transmission lines. The presence of increased numbers of aircraft at the juncture of two utility corridors could potentially restrict the use and future development of these interstate utility corridors. This could have a high impact on energy transmission facilities and on delivery of energy to Southern California.

Wildlife

The dry lake is surrounded by Category 1 desert tortoise habitat. The change to Class M would allow land uses which could result in negative secondary impacts to this species. Examples of secondary impacts which could occur over the long term are illegal collection of tortoises, road kills, and loss of habitat

Grazing Management and Wild Horses and Burros

The proposed class change would have no direct impact on livestock grazing, wild burros, or vegetation. However, livestock and burro movement between the two waterholes in the area would be disrupted if development of the area should occur.

Geology-Energy-Minerals (GEM)

No additional impacts resulting from mineral entry would be anticipated as the entire area would be subject to the terms of the lease and would not be open to mineral entry.

Recreation

The change in multiple use classification would have no effect on recreation use. However, development of the land as an airport would foreclose non-motorized recreation activities such as land-sailing or model airplane flying in the vicinity nearby.

Cultural Resources

There would be no impact to cultural resources.

Visual Resources

Construction of an airport would greatly alter the appearance of the northern portion of Ivanpah Lake. Flood control dikes, borrow pits needed to supply fill for the runway, and maintenance structures would create major changes in the existing landscape. These facilities would be highly visible to all users of I-15 over a distance of 20 to 30-miles.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

There would be no effect on visual resources, recreation, wildlife, vegetation, livestock grazing, or wild burros.

Socio-economic

The area would continue to be utilized as a utility corridor and future placement and development of transmission lines would not be affected. Proponents of the amendment would have to consider alternate sites for an airport. Alternative sites would have to be located further from the casino and would be less convenient. The potential effect on casino business is unknown.

Wildlife

There would be no positive benefits. However, prevention of development in this area would allow continuation of monitoring and control of cumulative impacts to the desert tortoise and this critical portion of its habitat.

AMENDMENT THIRTEEN:
DELETE A PORTION OF UTILITY CORRIDOR M

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Cultural Resources

Removal of this portion of Corridor M would ensure protection of valuable archaeological sites along the Lake Cahuilla shoreline against potential surface disturbances due to utility construction.

Utility Corridors

Removal of this portion of Corridor M would not affect energy distribution, since a viable alternative is already in existence. This is a corridor on private land on the west side of the East Highline Canal which was established by the Imperial County General Plan. This corridor parallels Corridor M and presently contains a newly-constructed 230 kV line.

Wildlife

This action would be expected to have minor impact on clapper rails which may occasionally be present but are not likely to breed in this location.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment

Cultural Resources

Continuing the present location of Corridor M might jeopardize important archaeological sites through surface disturbances that accompany utility construction.

Utility Corridor

Maintaining the entire length of Corridor M would commit many acres of public land to a use which is already provided nearby on private lands, where the County of Imperial has activated its own corridor.

AMENDMENT FOURTEEN:
DELETE ONE-MILE WIDE AND NINE-MILE LONG SEGMENT OF UTILITY CORRIDOR E

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Utility Corridor

Reducing the width of this segment of Utility Corridor E to two miles would decrease the area available for development by only a slight extent, since the area north of the segment is already only two-miles wide.

Wildlife

Deletion of the nine square mile segment would remove approximately 5760 acres of Category 1 tortoise habitat from potential disturbance by development within the utility corridor.

Visual Resources

Future construction would occur outside the Scenic Area boundary. Visual resources along Highway 95 and the corridor itself would be unchanged. The action would comply with the directive of the Scenic Area Plan to maintain the objectives of VRM Class II.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wildlife

Approximately 5760 acres of Category 1 tortoise habitat would remain in jeopardy from potential utility development.

Visual Resources

Retaining the corridor partially within the East Mojave National Scenic Area could lead to conflicts with the Scenic Area Management Plan objectives for visual resource management.

Utility Corridor

The corridor would remain three-miles wide, it can be anticipated that future utility development within the Scenic Area would be difficult.

AMENDMENT FIFTEEN:
ELIMINATE "CONTINGENT" CORRIDOR W

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Elimination of this contingent corridor would not affect land uses or resources, since this is presently not an approved corridor where additional utility lines could be constructed. Acceptance of this amendment would benefit the East Mojave National Scenic Area by reducing the chance that new

utility lines would pass through the Scenic Area; it would direct any future utility developments into areas adjacent to or outside of the National Scenic Area, thus conforming to long-term visual resource management objectives for the region.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Rejection of the amendment would leave unresolved BLM's position on the future development potential of this contingent corridor.

AMENDMENT SIXTEEN:
CHANGE MOTORIZED VEHICLE ACCESS FROM "LIMITED" TO "CLOSED" IN CHUCKWALLA DUNE THICKET ACEC (No. 57).

Although the proposed change in vehicle access was recommended by the ACEC Management Plan and approved and implemented in 1981, the Desert Plan and its Motorized Vehicle Element can only be changed through the amendment process. The following analysis will discuss possible impacts caused by this action.

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Wildlife

Prohibition of motorized vehicle access would protect this valuable habitat for the large numbers of birds that migrate, breed and forage here, especially during the winter.

Recreation

This change would not affect recreation, with the possible exception of vehicle use. However any such effect would be minimal, since this area has not been popular with vehicle recreationists.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wildlife

Allowing limited vehicle access in this ACEC could eventually endanger this important habitat, especially if this area should become more popular with recreationists in the future.

Recreation

See Wildlife.

AMENDMENT SEVENTEEN:
CHANGE VEHICLE ACCESS FROM LIMITED TO CLOSED IN THE PALEN DRY LAKE ACEC (#55)

Although the proposed change in vehicle access was recommended by the ACEC Management Plan and approved and implemented in September, 1981, the Desert

Plan and its Motorized Vehicle Element can only be changed through the amendment process. The following analysis will discuss possible impacts caused by this action.

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Recreation

Restriction of motorized vehicle access would have only a mininmal effect on OHV recreation, since this activity is only low to moderate in this area.

Cultural Resources

Restriction of off-road vehicle use would help reduce inadvertent damage to the sensitive cultural resources found on the shoreline of Palen Dry Lake.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Cultural Resources

Archaeological sites within the ACEC could be threatened by damage from potential OHV use. Expanding urban populations and the accessibility of this area make it likely that OHV recreationists could find it attractive in the future.

Recreation

Any effect on OHV recreation should be minimal, since this has not been a popular location for this activity.

AMENDMENT EIGHTEEN:
PROHIBIT GRAZING SOUTH OF INTERSTATE-10 IN THE FORD DRY LAKE ALLOTMENT

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Wildlife

Recent reports (Bunch et al. 1988, DeForge et al. 1988, Jessup et al. 1988) have indicated an extremely high susceptibility of mountain sheep to pathogenic organisms carried by domestic livestock. Elimination of domestic sheep grazing south of I-10 would avoid the possibility of disease exposure of bighorn sheep in that area. It would also avoid potential competition for forage between domestic sheep and the desert tortoise.

Grazing Management

There would be a loss of grazing use on 41,000 acres of ephemeral rangeland. However, there would be little or no effect in the amendment area, since the allotment menagement plan restrict grazing there to day-use. It's possible that this acreage loss could be mitigated by extending the allotment boundary

to the north. Before consideration of such an extension however, potential conflicts with bighorn sheep in the adjacent Palen Mountains would have to be evaluated.

ALTERNATIVE B: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Wildlife

Grazing of the Ford Dry Lake Allotment south of I-10 could increase the possibility of losing the entire Chuckwalla Mountains bighorn sheep herd to diseases carried by domestic sheep. Such a loss recently occurred in the Warner Mountains in Northern California. The California Department of Fish and Game would be reluctant to augment the existing small herd of mountain sheep in the Chuckwalla Mountains if domestic sheep were allowed to graze nearby. Without such an augmentation, it might not be possible to obtain a viable self-sustaining population of bighorn sheep in the Chuckwalla Mountains.

Domestic sheep grazing would be allowed in Category 1 desert tortoise habitat. This would be a potential conflict with the management of this species.

AMENDMENT NINETEEN:
NEW GRAZING ALLOTMENT NEAR DAGGETT

ALTERNATIVE A: Adopt Amendment

Grazing Management

The allotment boundary follows section lines which are not marked. The herder would have a difficult time locating the boundary, and supervision by the BLM would be difficult.

Wilderness

The proposed allotment does not meet the non-impairment criteria of the Interim Management Policy. A permanent allotment could not be terminated owing to the contractual agreements of a Section 15 grazing lease. Therefore, non-impairment criterion 2(a) could not be met. Criterion 2(c) may be also affected by the proposal. Bighorn sheep are a supplemental wilderness value for this WSA (Newberry Mountain No. 206). If bighorn sheep are affected in terms of reduction of herd size owing to disease from domestic sheep, then the wilderness value has been degraded.

Vegetation

Sheep grazing could have a negative effect on the Sand Linanthus and the Monkey Flower plants. Since both species flower during the spring, it can be expected that sheep would utilize them. Allowing potential damage to these species would be in conflict with the State Department of Fish and Game which is studying whether these plants should be considered threatened.

Wildlife

Recent reports (Bunch et al. 1988, DeForge et al. 1988, Jessup et al. 1988) have indicated an extremely high susceptibility of mountain sheep to patho-

genic organisms carried by domestic livestock. The bighorn sheep herd could be adversely affected. Although the science of animal husbandry has greatly improved in recent years, and epizootic diseases are not common in domestic sheep, the possibility of transmitting disease is still present. Therefore, grazing domestic sheep in bighorn habitat is generally undesirable due to the chance of increased bighorn mortality.

Use of the area could result in long term impacts on tortoise from trampling and from forage competition.

Cultural Resources

Sheep grazing has the potential to negatively affect cultural resources through trampling, which causes artifact breakage and displacement. Indirect impacts might also occur wherever grazing results in soil erosion, causing a disturbance in the association of site materials. All these impacts would be most pronounced wherever sheep would bed and water. Since the area has not been thoroughly inventoried for cultural resources, it is not possible to predict the impact of the proposed allotment.

ALTERNATIVE B: Modified Allotment Boundary

Grazing Management

Using Camp Rock rock as the eastern boundary of the proposed allotment would greatly assist the herder in determining boundary location.

Wilderness

The modified boundary has eliminated the WSA from the proposed allotment; therefore, no direct impacts are anticipated. However, the domestic sheep may affect the bighorn sheep herd outside the WSA which would indirectly affect the Wilderness Study Area's wilderness values.

Wildlife, Vegetation, and Cultural Resources

The impacts would be the same as in Alternative A.

ALTERNATIVE C: Reject Amendment (No Action)

Grazing Management

The proposed Daggett Allotment would not be created. The ephemeral forage which is a renewable resource would not be utilized by domestic sheep.

Wildlife

There would be no impact to bighorn sheep and desert tortoise.

Vegetation

There would be no impact to Sand linanthus and Monkey flower plants.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The cumulative impacts of this preferred alternative are presented in Table 4-1 below:

TABLE 4-1

SUMMARY OF CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Resource	Unit of Measure	No Action	Preferred Alternative	Percent Change	New Percent of Desert
Multiple Use Class					
C	Acres	1,900,000	1,900,000	0	15.9
L	Acres	5,902,000	6,151,440	4.2	51.4
M	Acres	3,400,000	3,142,410	-7.6	26.3
I	Acres	520,000	528,150	1.6	4.4
Unclassified	Acres	249,000	249,000	0	2.1
Vehicle Access					
Open	Acres	505,000	513,150	1.6	4.3
Limited	Acres	9,251,000	9,237,464	0.15	77.2
Closed	Acres	1,963,000	1,968,386	0.27	16.4
Undesignated	Acres	251,000	251,000	0	2.1
ACECs					
Added	Number	0	3		
	Acres	0	14,797		
Deleted	Number	0	3		
	Acres	0	5,360		
Net Change	Number	0	0		
	Acres	0	+9,437		
Livestock Grazing					
Ephemeral Allotments	Number	19	19		
	Acres	1,351,118	1,315,818		
Ephemeral/Perennial Allotments	Number	25	25		
	Acres	3,036,267	3,036,267		
Perennial Allotments	Number	14	14		
	Acres	720,522	720,522		

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

CHAPTER V

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Notices and Meetings

The 1988 Amendment Process was announced by a letter sent to the Desert Plan mailing list on January 28, 1988. The list consists of approximately 5,300 individuals, organizations, businesses, and government agencies. The letter outlined the criteria for evaluating amendment proposals and gave the final date for submitting proposals as March 18, 1988. Federal Register notices were published on January 29, 1988 (Vol. 53, No. 19) and February 11, 1988 (Vol. 53, No. 28). A news release was issued on February 24, 1988.

Proposed amendments were reviewed by the District Advisory Council at its public meeting in El Centro on April 9, 1988. This meeting also served as a scoping meeting for the environmental assessment.

Public Input

Nineteen letters were received in response to the invitation for amendment proposals. Eleven were from individuals, five from organizations, one from a business, one from a utility, and one from a California State agency. All except one came from California (nine from the Desert District area); the exception was from Nevada.

Thirteen respondents offered 15 proposals. Five of these were recommended by the District Advisory Council and approved by BLM management for consideration in the 1988 amendment process. The remainder will be handled by other administrative procedures, deferred for later consideration, or dropped as inappropriate. Each amendment proposal and its fate are listed in Appendix B.

One organization proposed 20 amendments which would have reversed actions based on amendments approved since 1980. No new information was provided; the proposals were not considered and are not listed herein.

On November 2nd and 3rd, the proposed amendments were reviewed by the District Advisory Committee in a public meeting at Lake Havasu City. At this meeting the various alternatives were discussed and examined; several modifications were recommended.

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	NAME	POSITION	ASSIGNMENT (Amendment No.)
DISTRICT OFFICE	Irene Rice	Planning Coordinator	Team Leader
	Doug Romoli	Environmental Coordinator	Assistant
	Clara Strapp	Illustrator	Graphics
	Dora Faircloth	Library Tech	Administrative Support
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	Dean Huibregtse	Range Conservationist	Grazing (19)
	Harold Johnson	Recreation Planner	Recreation (11)
	Paul McClain	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife (11, 19)
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	Lillian Andris-Olech	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife (4,8,9,13)
	Lynn Anderson	Recreation Planner	Recreation (4,8,9) Wilderness (4,9)
	Cynthia Grover	Range Conservationist	Vegetation (8)
	Lynda Kastoll	Realty Specialist	Lands (8,9,13)
INDIO RA	Mike Mitchell	Archaeologist	Cultural Res.(17)
	Michael Blymer	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife (16, 18) Vegetation (16,18) Recreation (16,17) Grazing (17,18)
RIDGECREST RA	Jeff Aardahl	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife (2,3)
	Eric Watkins	Natural Resource	Vegetation (2,3)
	Mark Struble	Recreation Planner	Recreation (2,3)
	Joan Oxendine	Archaeologist	Cultural Res. (2,3)
NEEDLES RA	James Farrell	Wildlife Biologist	Wildlife (10,12,14,15)
	Steve Larson	Range Conservationist	Grazing (10,12,15) Vegetation (10,12,15)
	John Bailey	Recreation Planner	Recreation (10,12,15) Visual (10,12,14,15)
	George Meckfessel	Archaeologist	Cultural Res. (10,12,14,15)
	Arthur Smith	Geologist	GRM (10, 12)

ACRONYMS

ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
AMP	Allotment Management Plan
AUM	Animal Unit Month
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
CDCA	California Desert Conservation Area
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
EA	Environmental Assessment
FTHL	Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard
GEM	Geology-Energy-Minerals
IID	Imperial Irrigation District
IMP	Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Land under Wilderness Review
LTVA	Long Term Visitor Area
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MUC	Multiple Use Class
OHV	Off-Highway Vehicle
RA	Resource Area
UPA	Unusual Plant Assemblage
USDI	United States Department of Interior
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
VRM	Visual Resource Management
VUD	Visitor Use Day
WSA	Wilderness Study Area

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APPENDICES

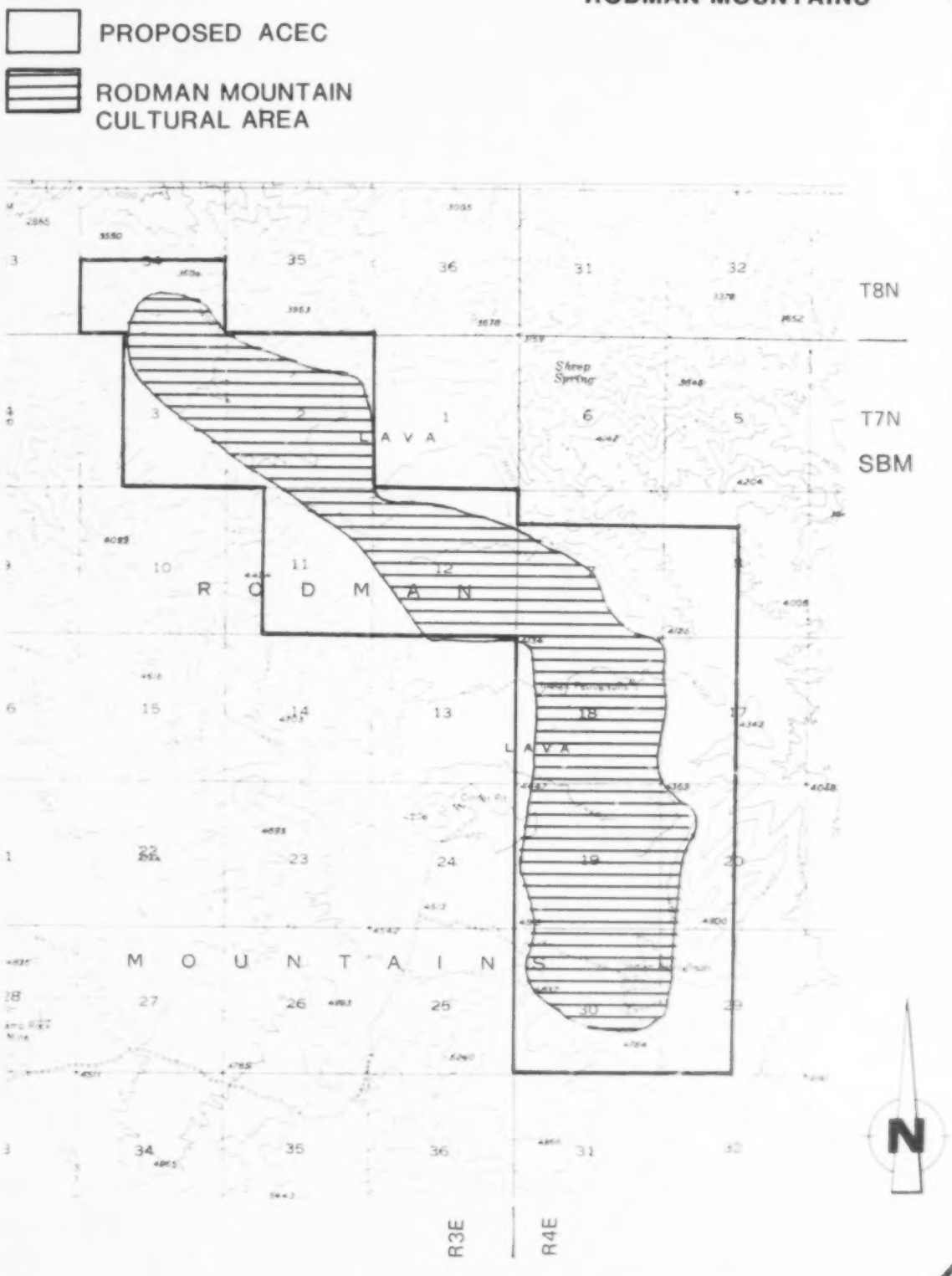
APPENDIX A

MAPS OF AMENDMENTS

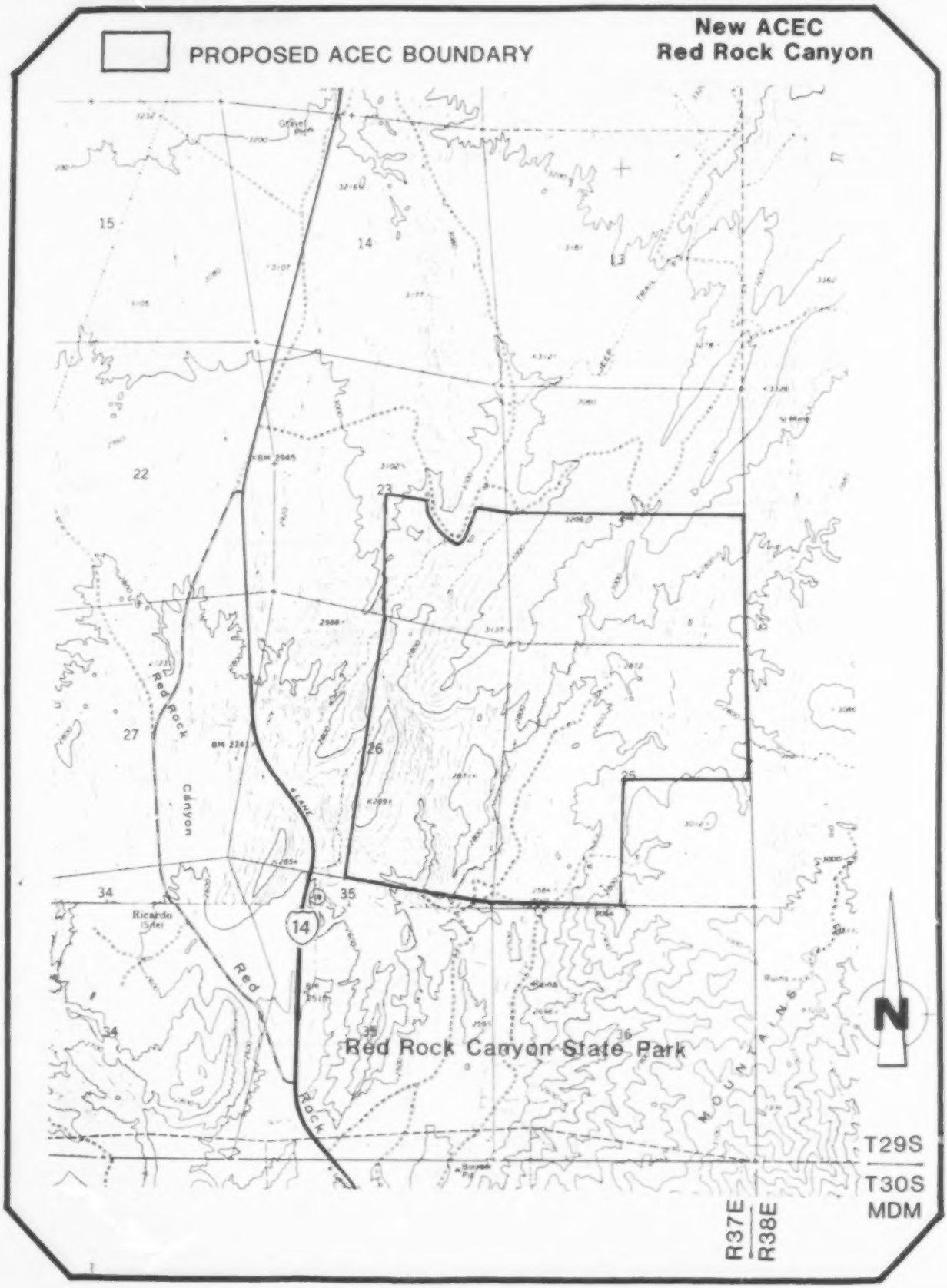
AMENDMENT 1

New ACEC

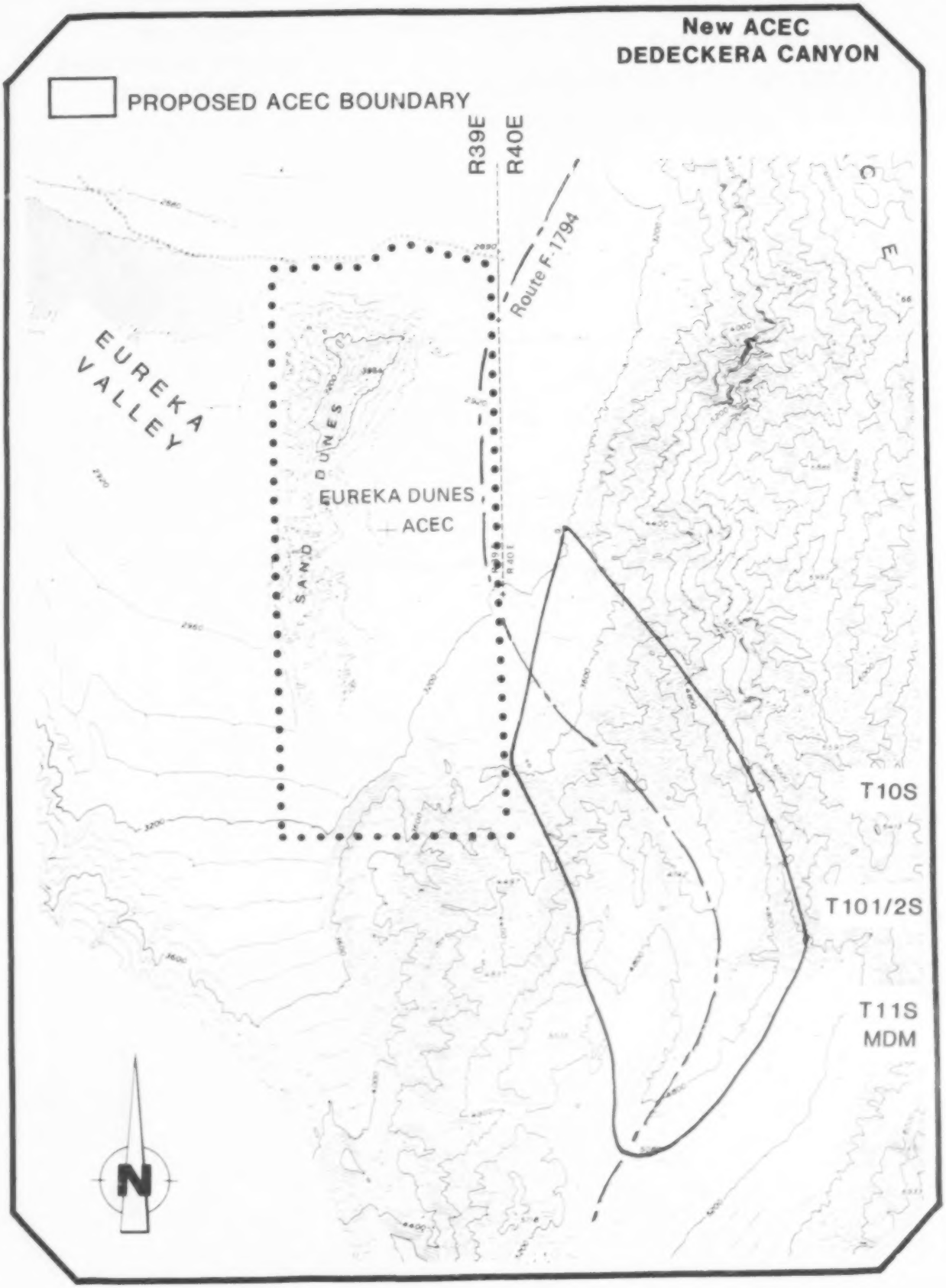
RODMAN MOUNTAINS

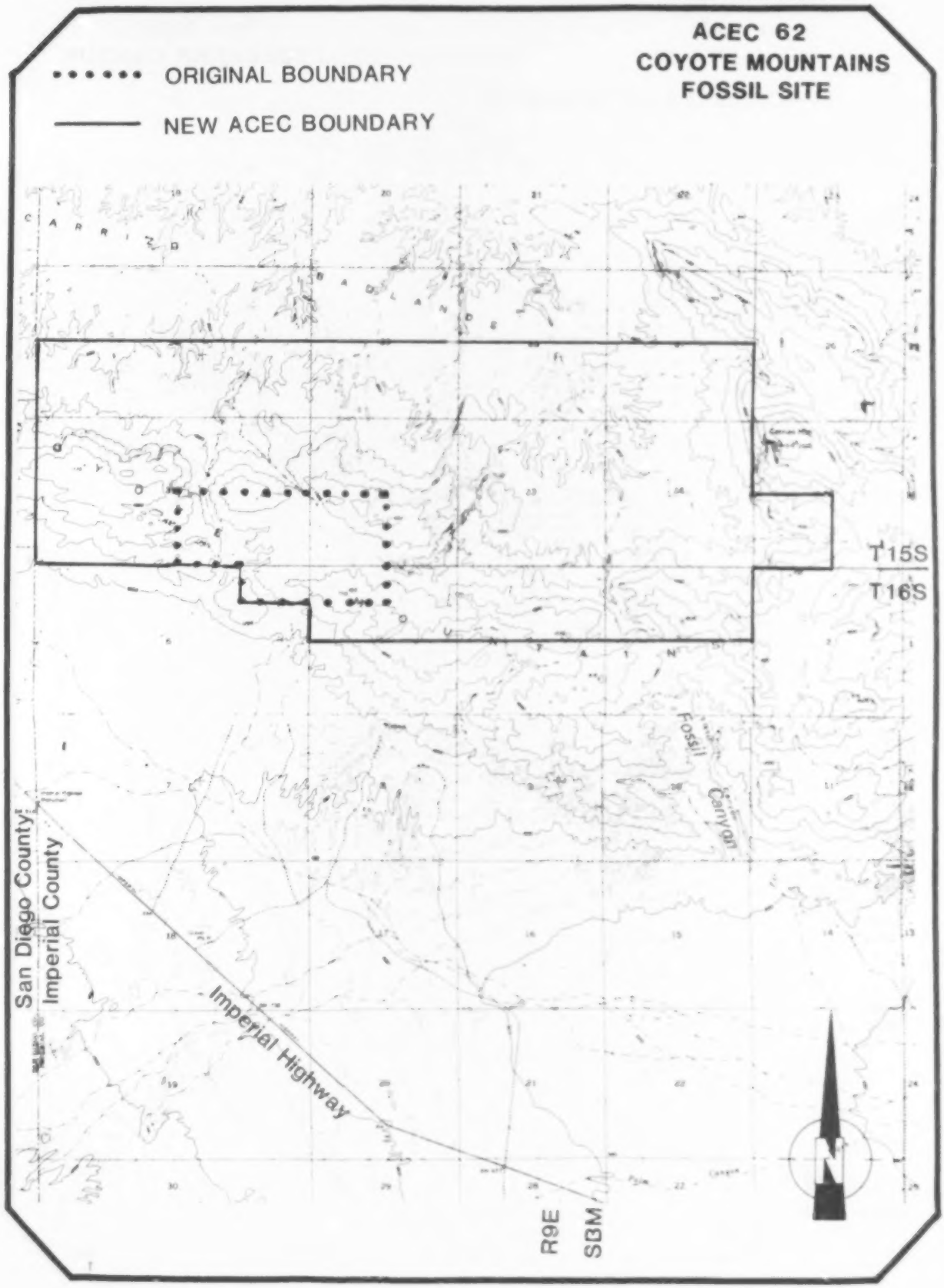


AMENDMENT 2


PROPOSED ACEC BOUNDARY
New ACEC
Red Rock Canyon
Red Rock Canyon State Park
Red Rock Canyon
Ricardo
14
15
22
23
26
27
34
35
36
N
T29S
T30S
MDM
R37E
R38E

AMENDMENT 3

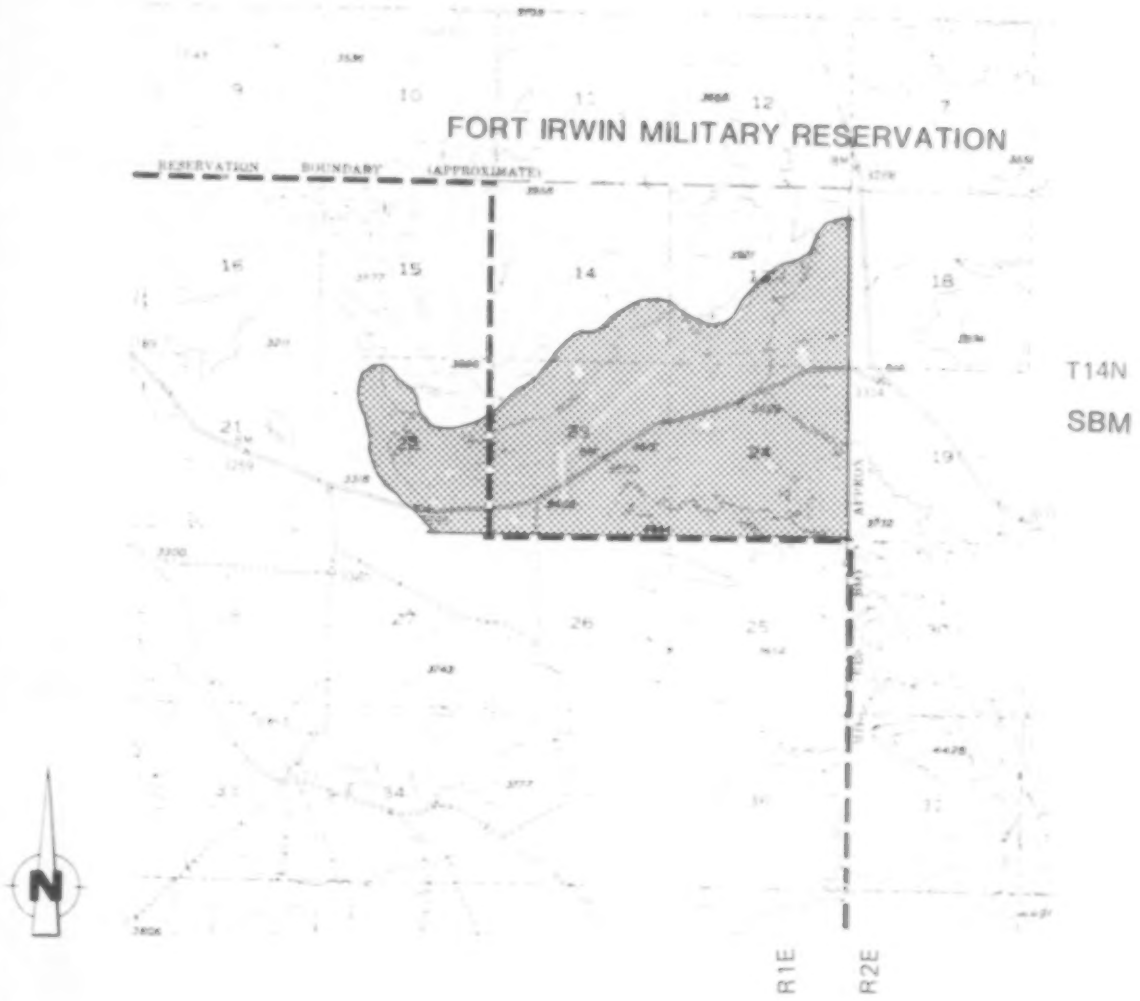

New ACEC
DEDECKERA CANYON
PROPOSED ACEC BOUNDARY
R39E
R40E
Route F-1794
EUREKA VALLEY
SAND DUNES
EUREKA DUNES
ACEC
T10S
T101/2S
T11S
MDM
N


ACEC 62
COYOTE MOUNTAINS
FOSSIL SITE
ORIGINAL BOUNDARY
NEW ACEC BOUNDARY
T15S
T16S
Fossil Canyon
San Diego County
Imperial County
Imperial Highway
R9E
SBM
N

Delete ACEC 28

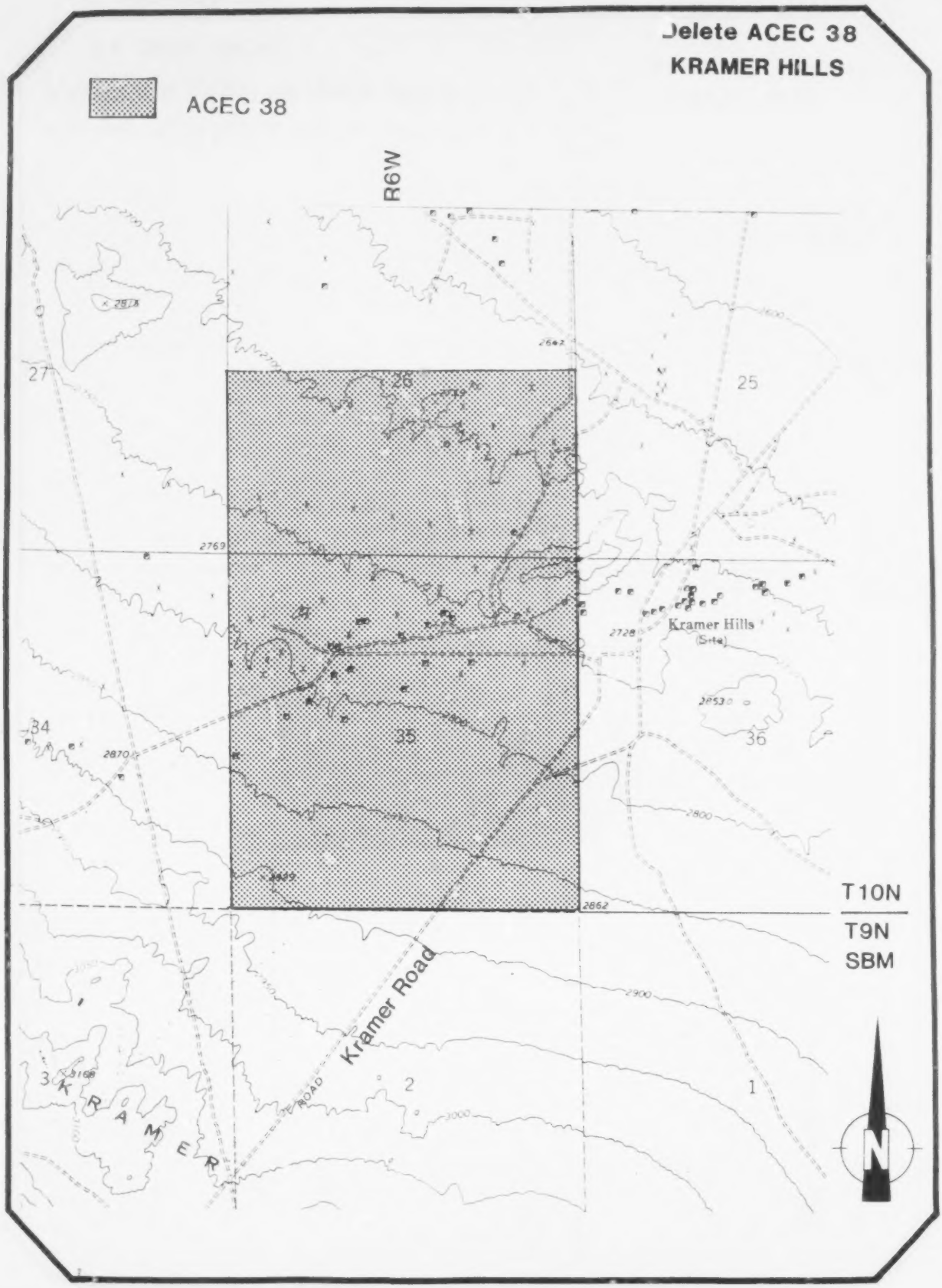
CAMP IRWIN MILITARY BOUNDARY

ACEC 28

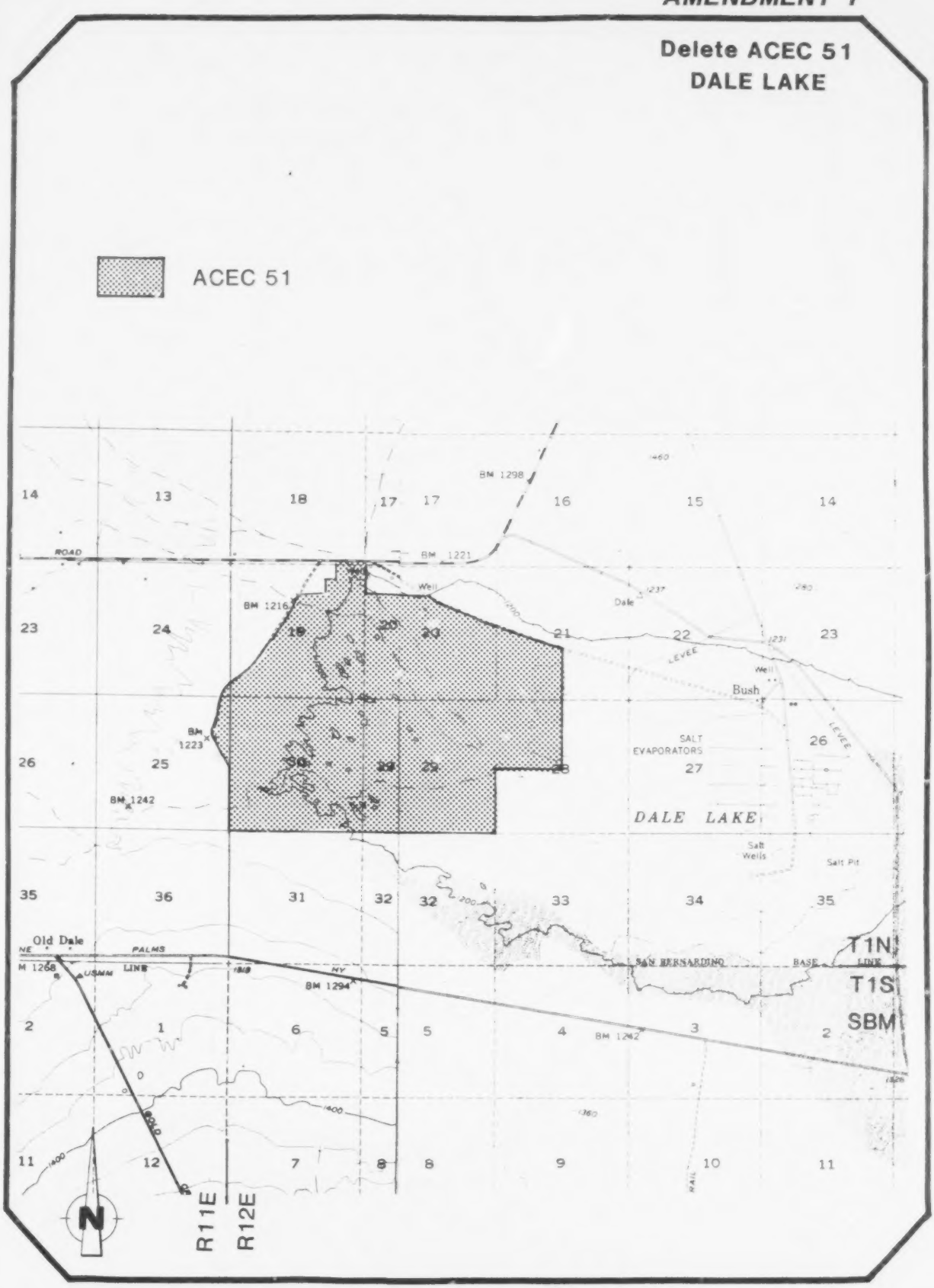


AMENDMENT 6

Delete ACEC 38
KRAMER HILLS



Delete ACEC 51
DALE LAKE



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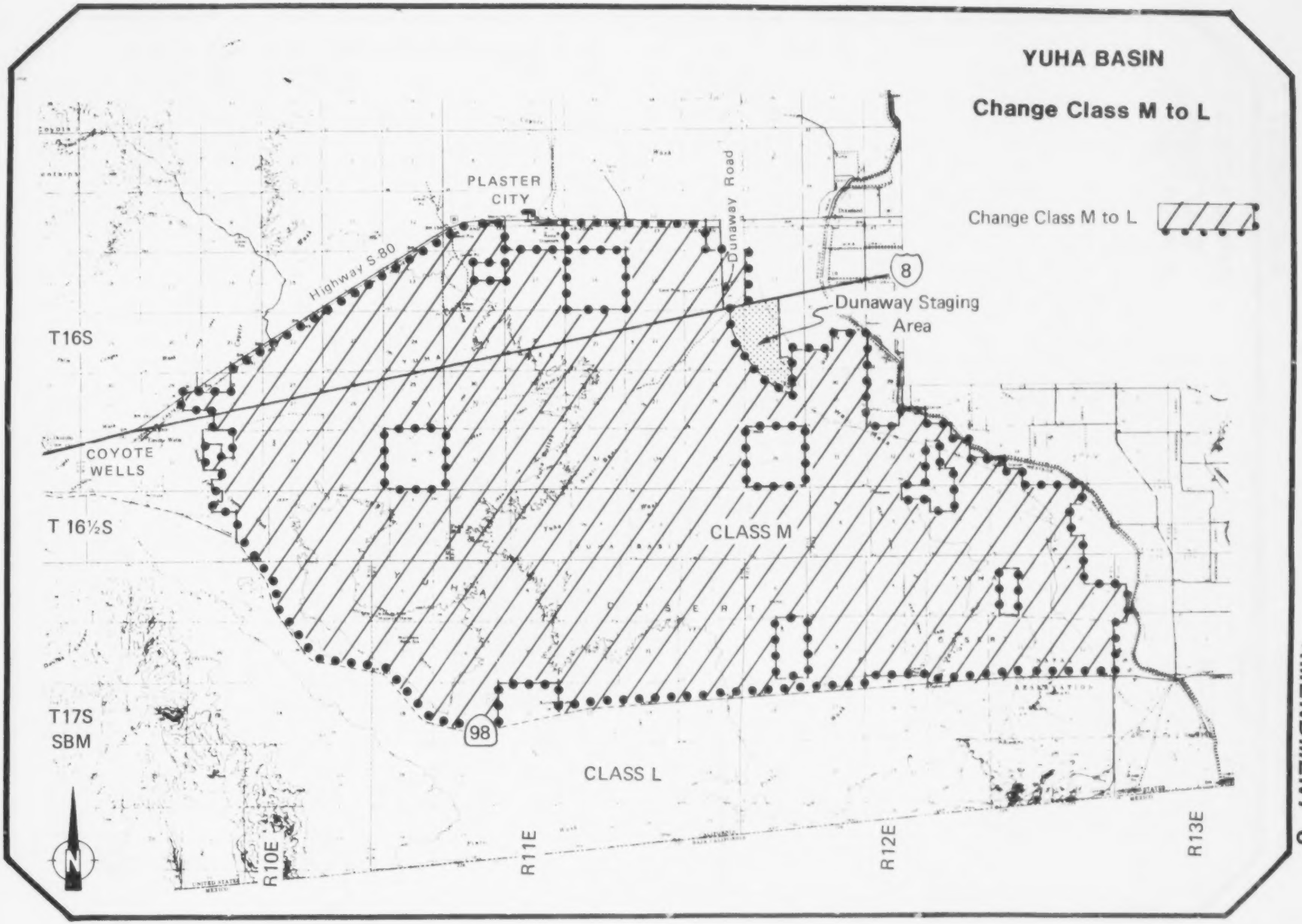
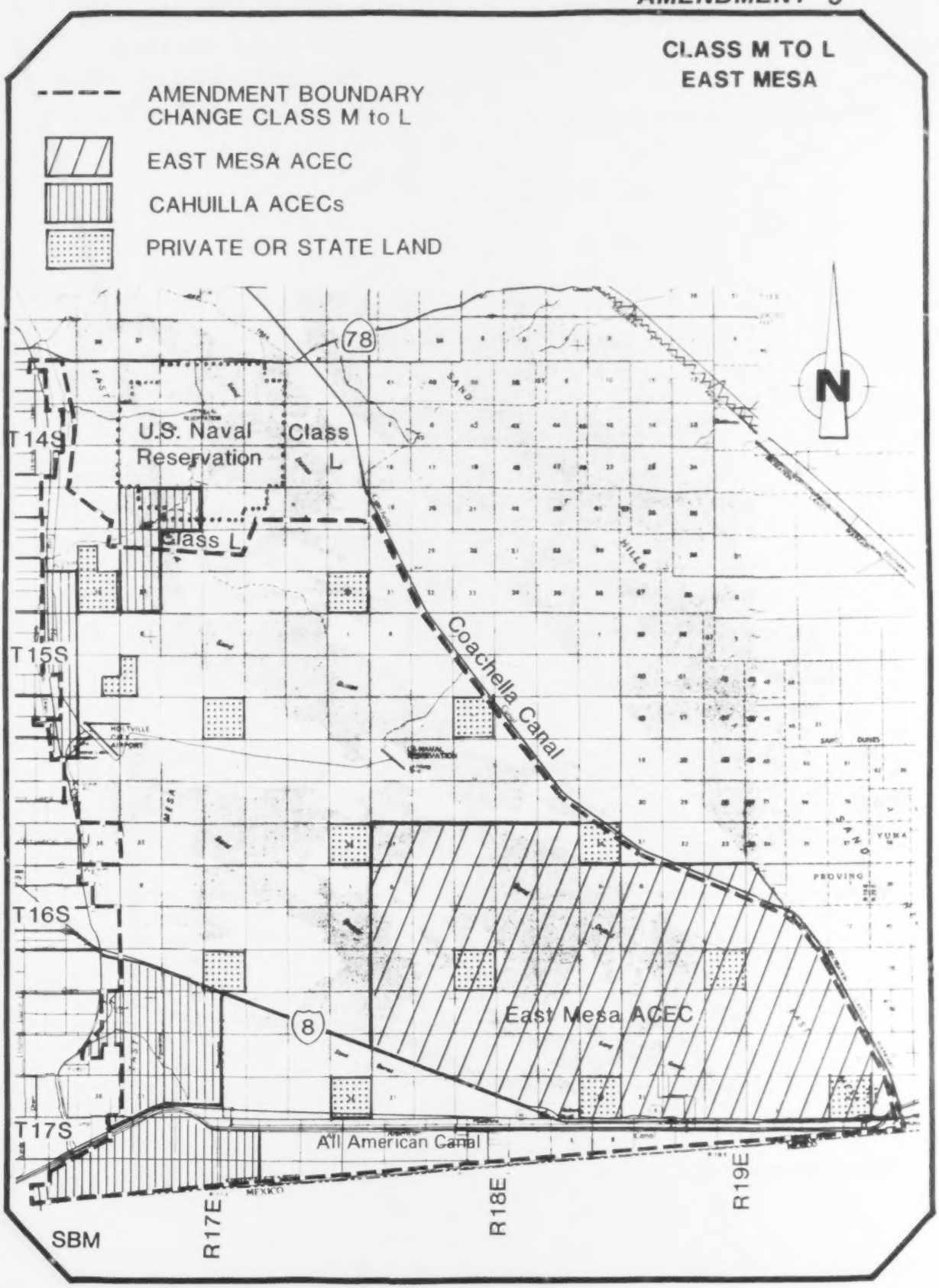
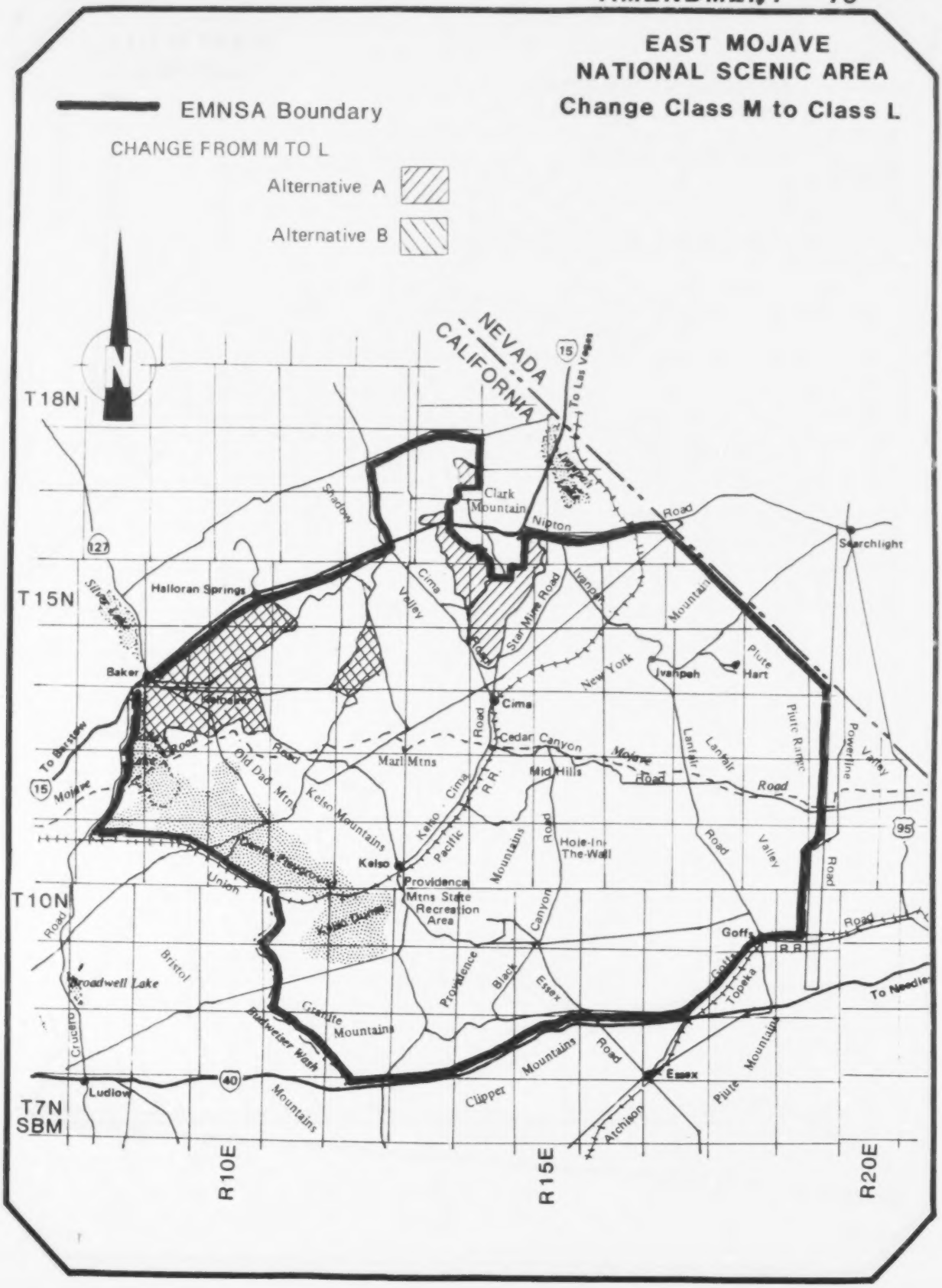
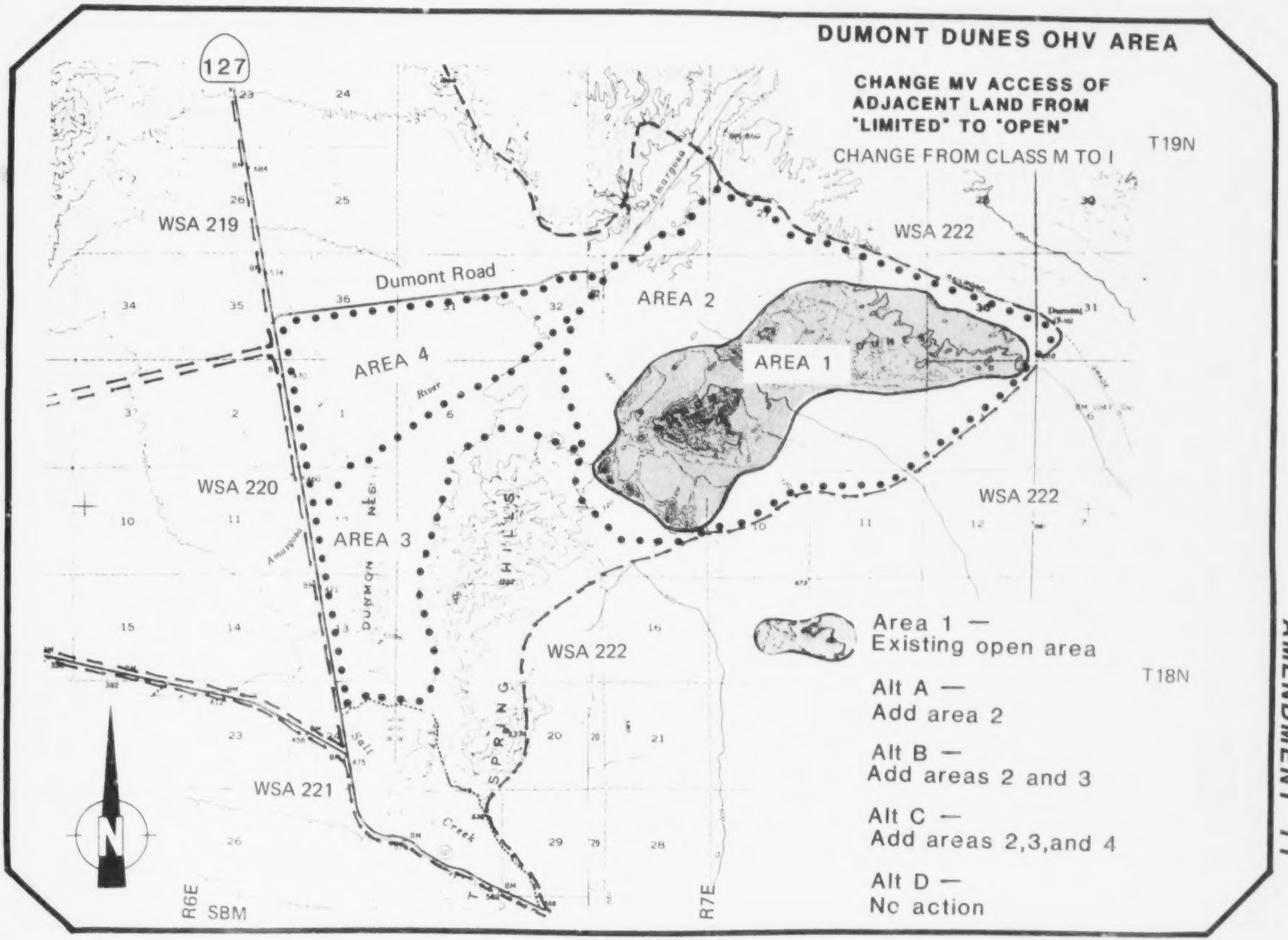

YUHA BASIN
Change Class M to L
Change Class M to L
PLASTER CITY
Dunaway Road
Highway S 80
8
Dunaway Staging Area
T16S
COYOTE WELLS
T 16½S
CLASS M
98
T17S
SBM
CLASS L
R10E
R11E
R12E
R13E
N

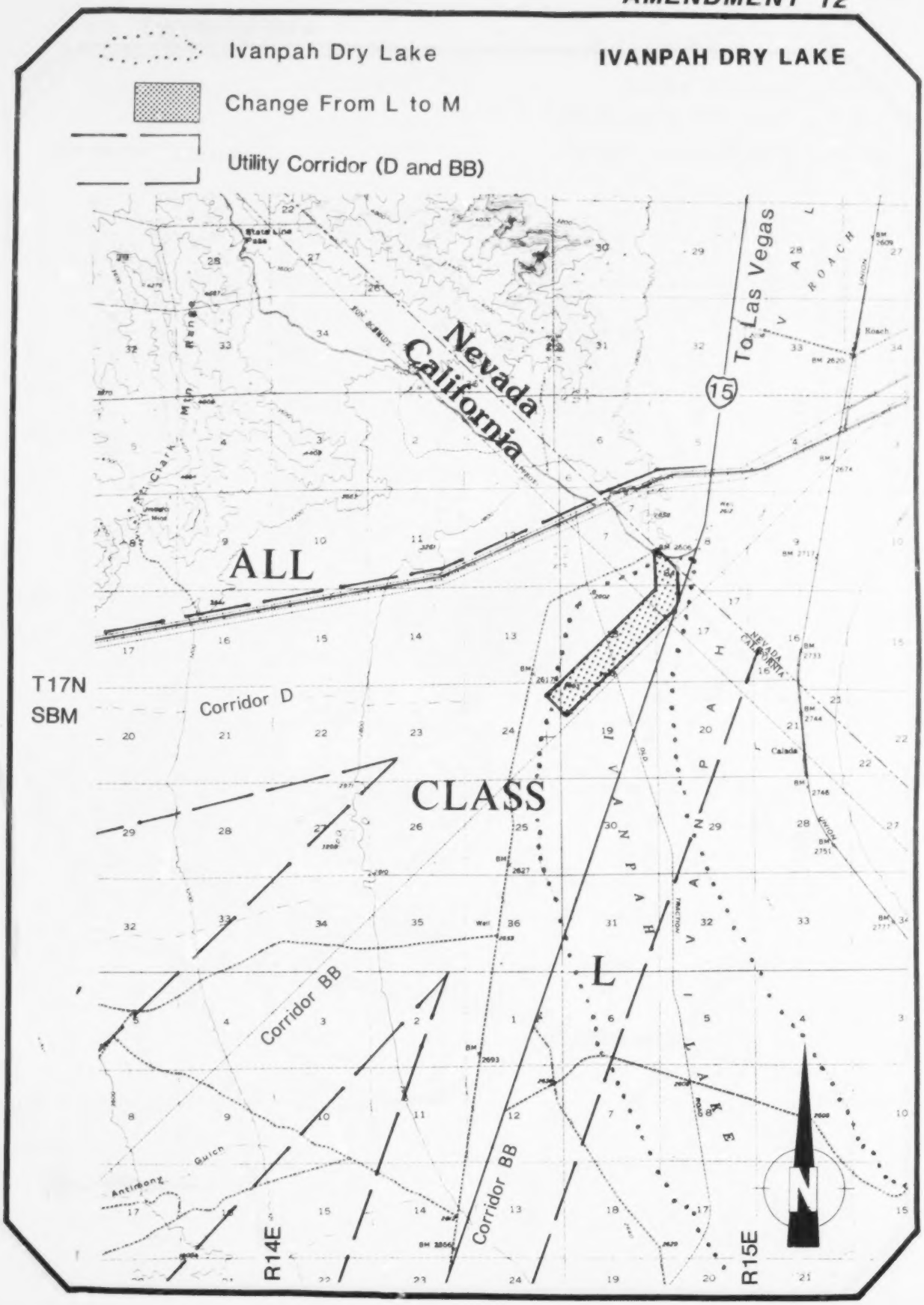
AMENDMENT 8


CLASS M TO L
EAST MESA
AMENDMENT BOUNDARY
CHANGE CLASS M to L
EAST MESA ACEC
CAHUILLA ACECs
PRIVATE OR STATE LAND
N
78
T14S
U.S. Naval
Reservation
Class
L
Class L
T15S
Coachella Canal
T16S
East Mesa ACEC
8
T17S
All American Canal
SBM
R17E
R18E
R19E

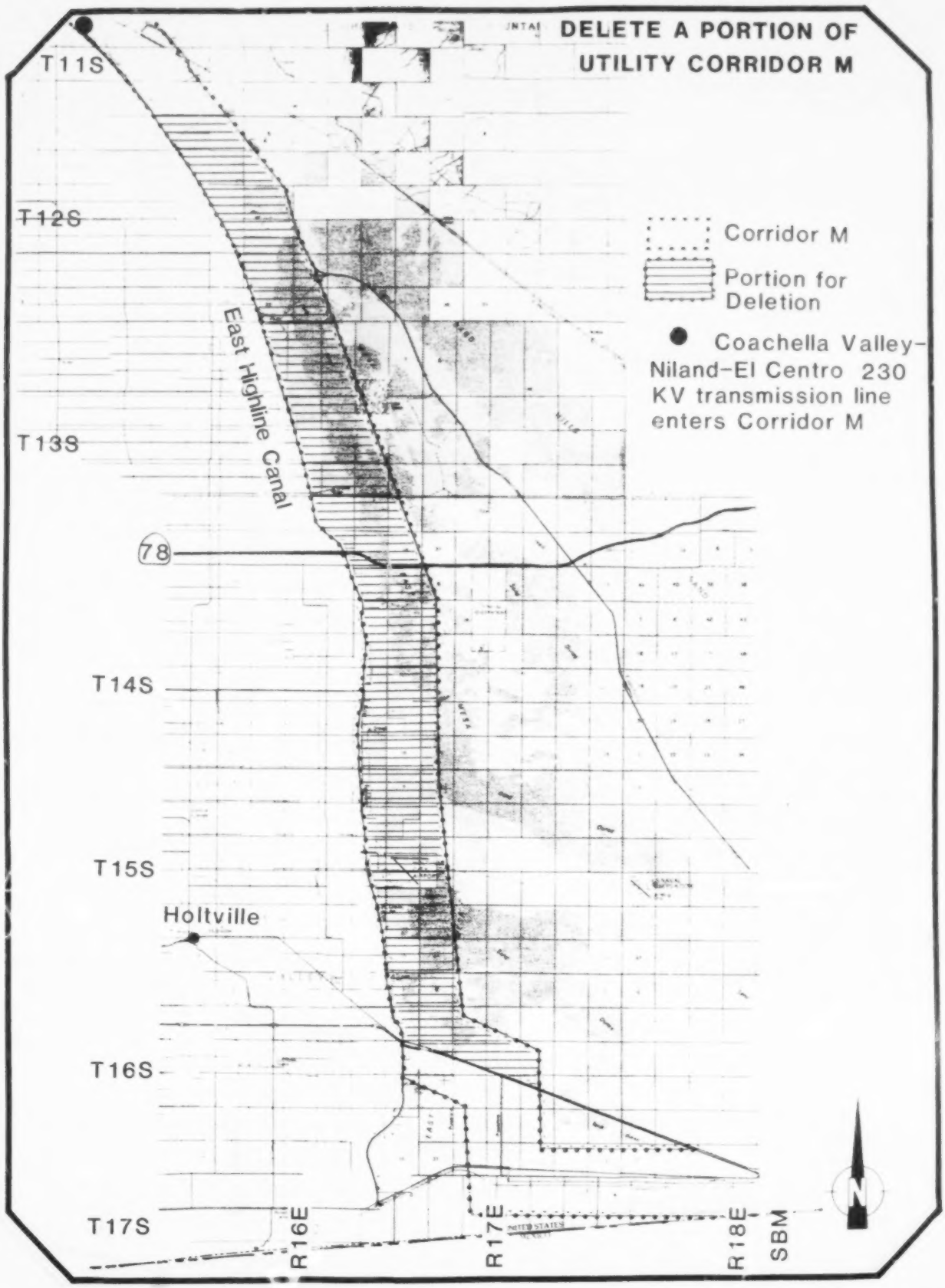

EAST MOJAVE
NATIONAL SCENIC AREA
Change Class M to Class L
EMNSA Boundary
CHANGE FROM M TO L
Alternative A
Alternative B
N
NEVADA
CALIFORNIA
T18N
T15N
T10N
T7N
SBM
R10E
R15E
R20E
To Las Vegas
Clark Mountain
Nipton
Searchlight
Halloran Springs
Silurian Lake
Baker
Cima
Cedar Canyon
Mid Hills
Ivanpah
Hart
New York
Star Mine Road
Cima Valley
Shadow Valley
Old Dad Mtns
Marl Mtns
Kelso Mountains
Kelso - Cima Road
Union Pacific R.R.
Providence Mtns State Recreation Area
Hole-In-The-Wall
Goffs
Broadwell Lake
Bristol
Granite Mountains
Providence Mountains
Black Mountains
Essex
Clipper Mountains
Piute Mountains
Ludlow
Atchison Topeka
To Needles
Mojave Road
Lanfair Road
Piute Range
Powerline Road
Valley Road
Kelso Dunes
Cadiz Playa

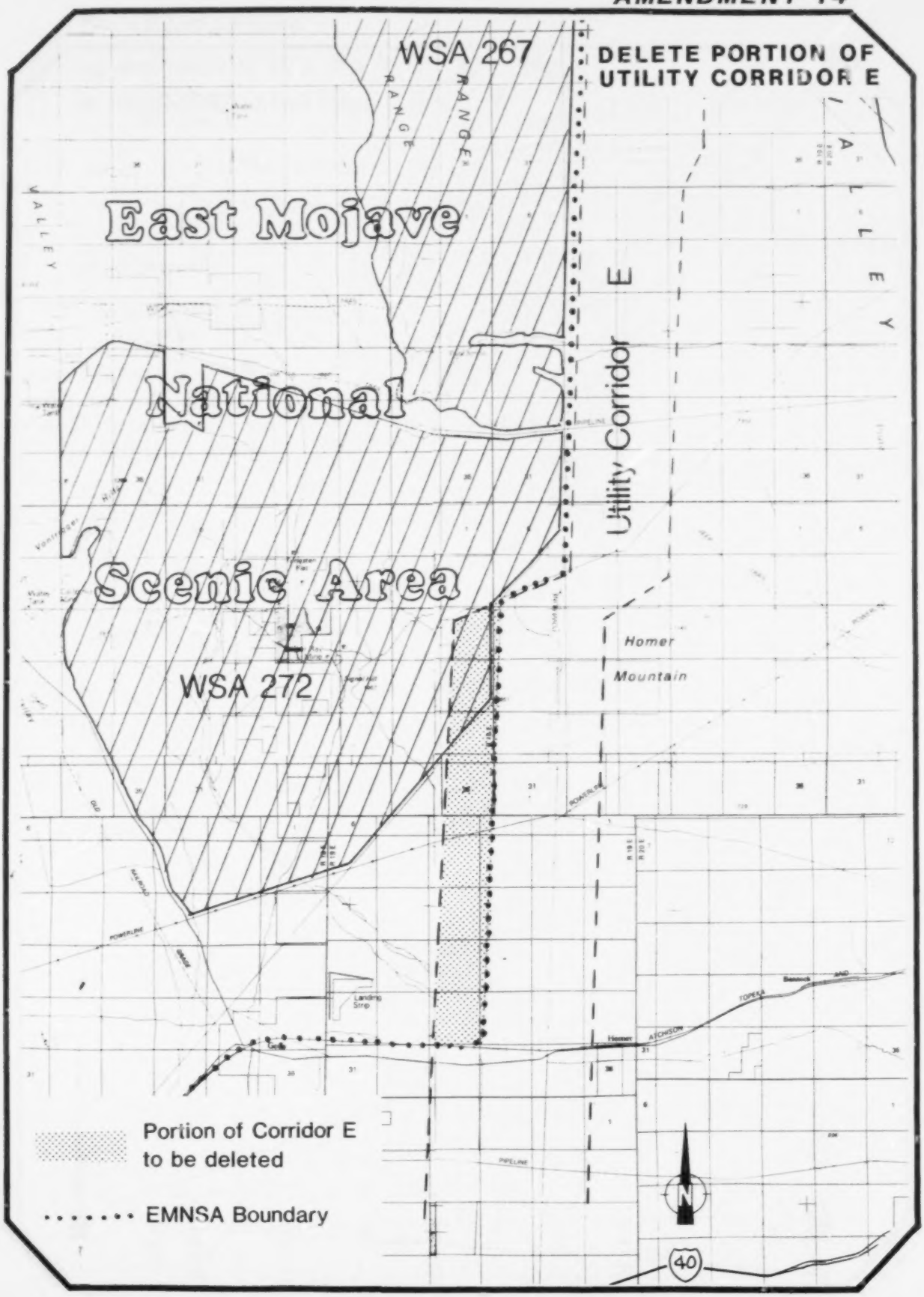


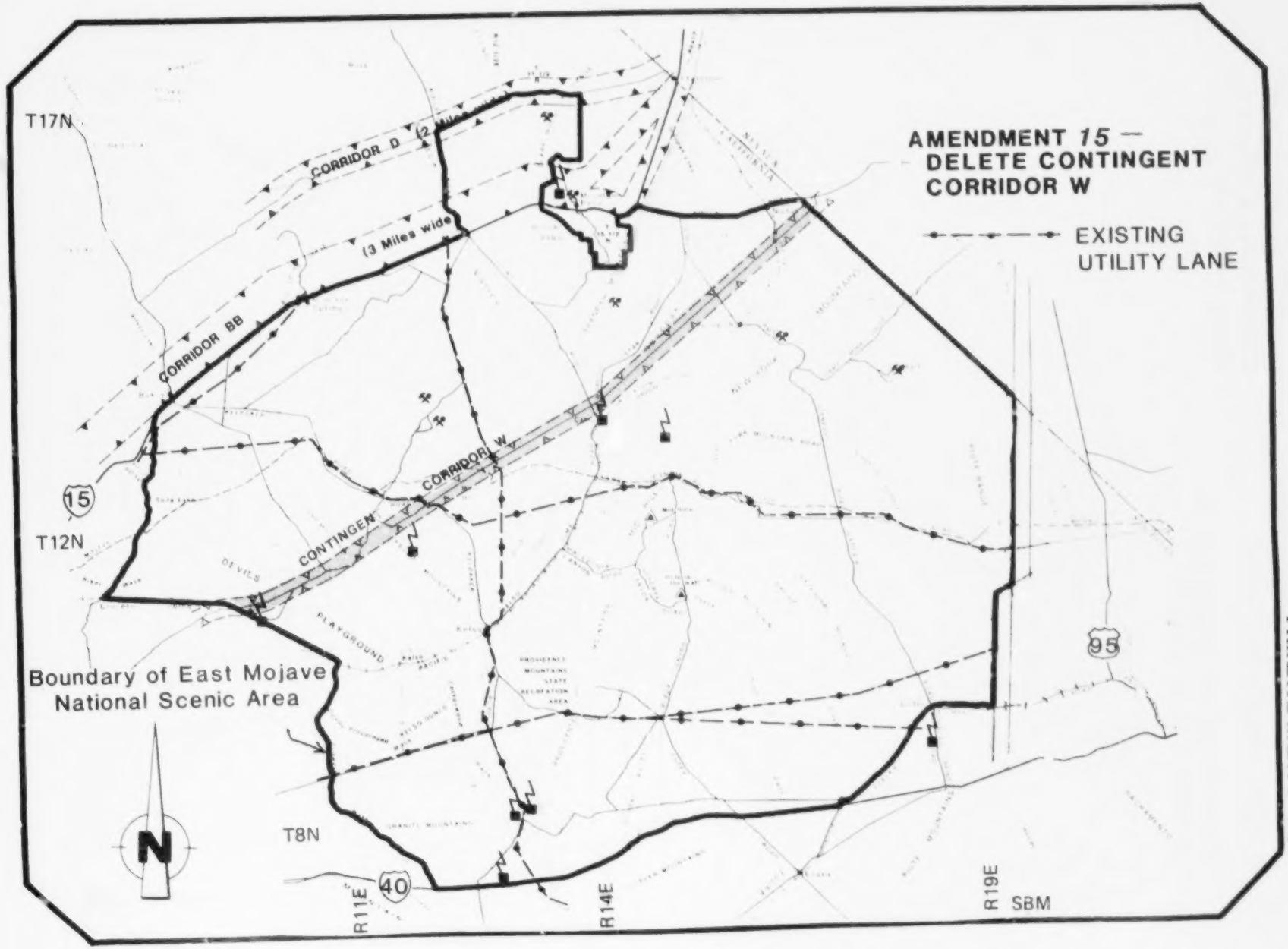
AMENDMENT 11


Ivanpah Dry Lake
Change From L to M
Utility Corridor (D and BB)
IVANPAH DRY LAKE
Nevada
California
To Las Vegas
15
ALL
CLASS
L
T17N
SBM
Corridor D
Corridor BB
Corridor BB
R14E
R15E
N

AMENDMENT 13




DELETE PORTION OF UTILITY CORRIDOR E
WSA 267
East Mojave
National
Scenic Area
WSA 272
Utility Corridor E
Homer Mountain
Portion of Corridor E to be deleted
EMNSA Boundary
40



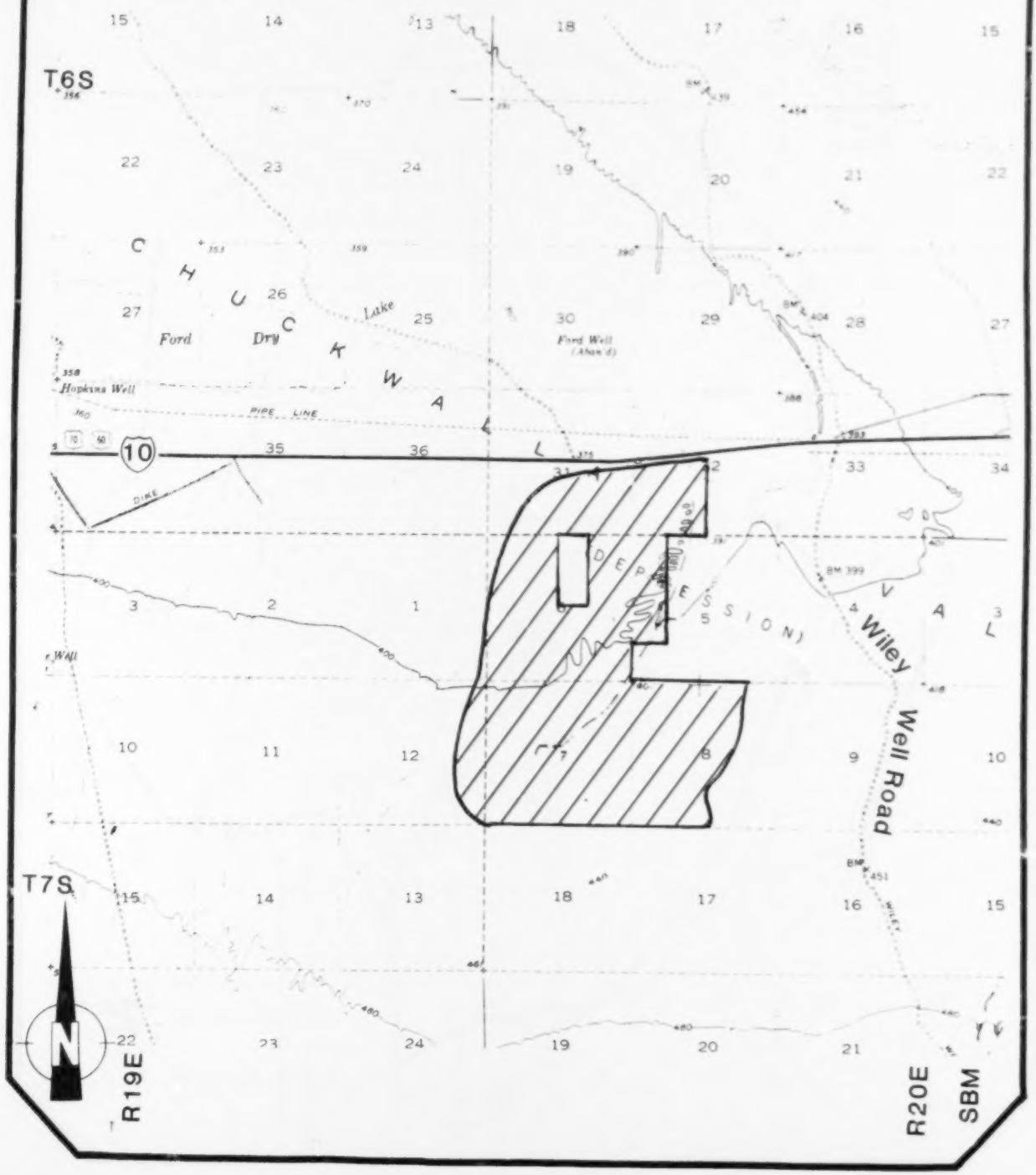
AMENDMENT 15

AMENDMENT 16

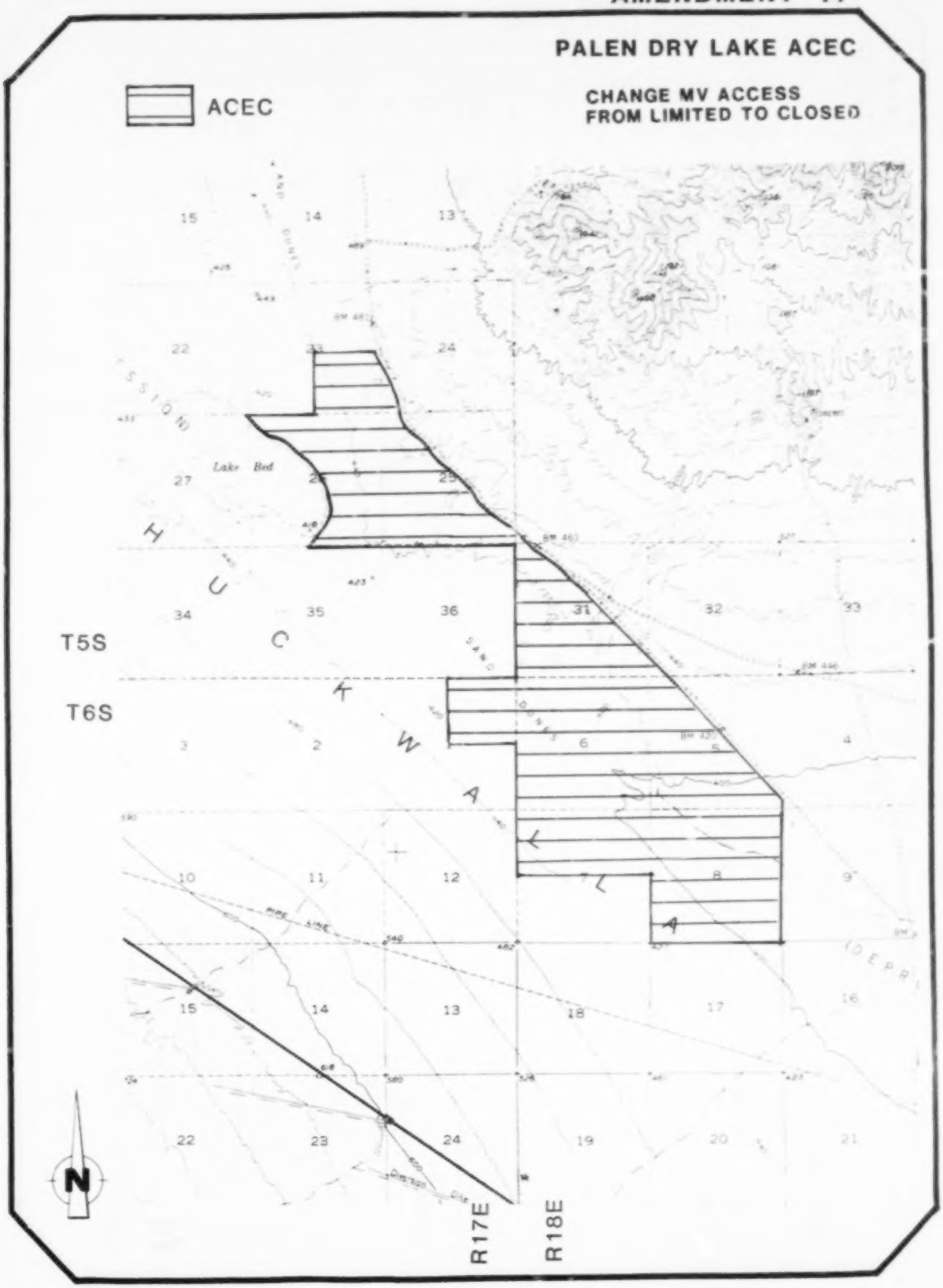
CHUCKWALLA VALLEY DUNE THICKET ACEC

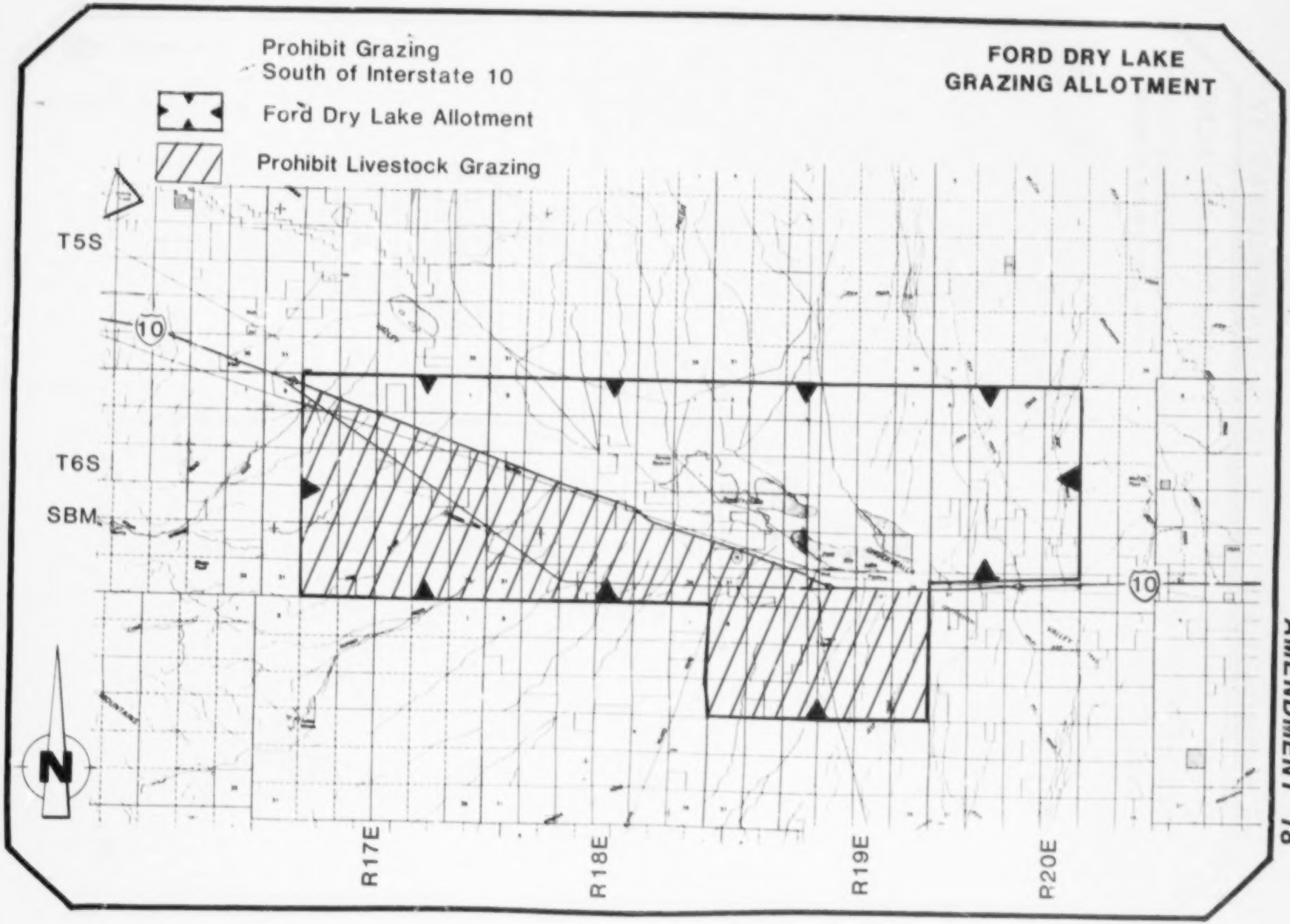
Change Motorized Vehicle Access from Limited to Closed

ACEC

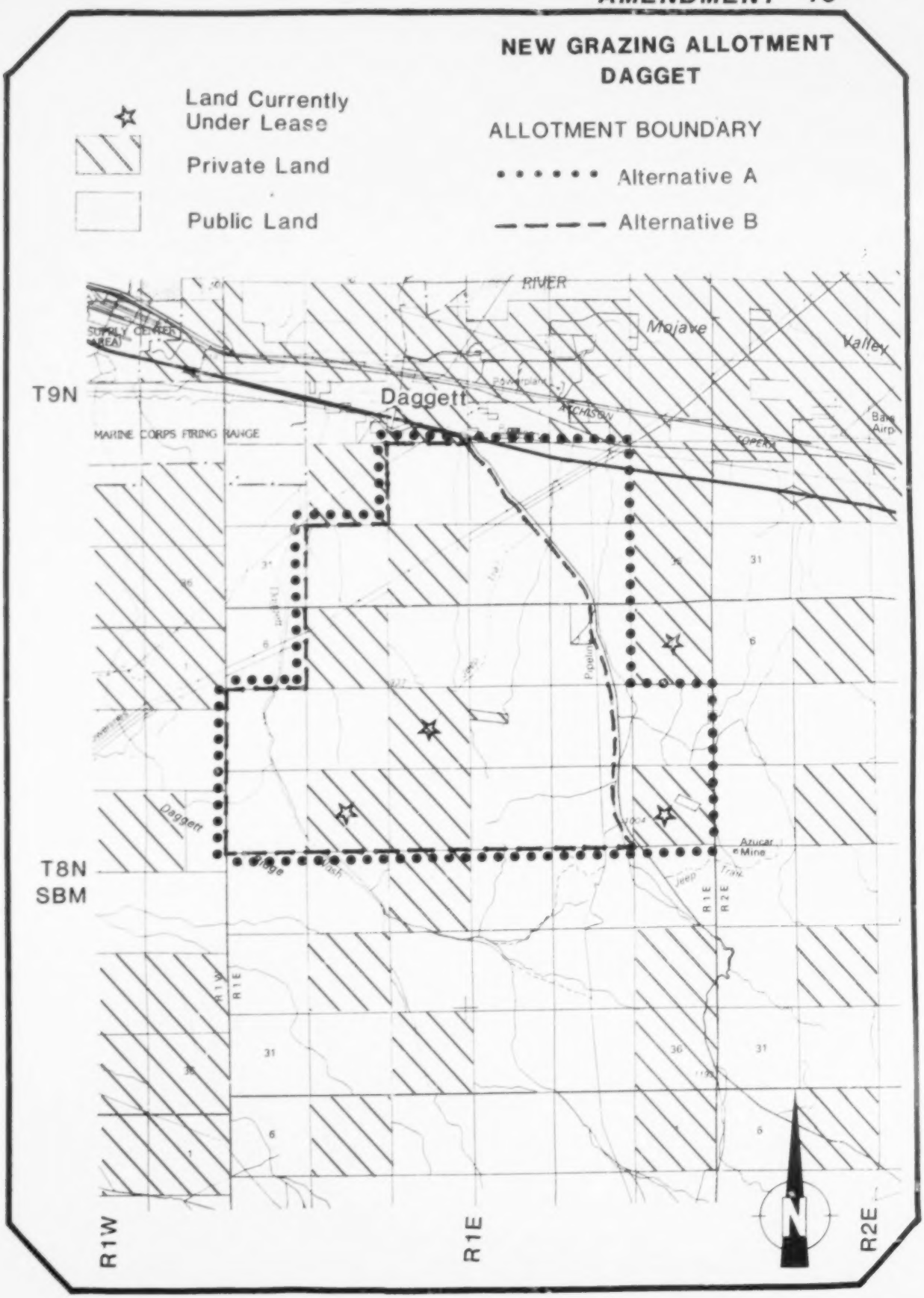


AMENDMENT 17





AMENDMENT 18


NEW GRAZING ALLOTMENT
DAGGET
Land Currently Under Lease
Private Land
Public Land
ALLOTMENT BOUNDARY
Alternative A
Alternative B
RIVER
Mojave
Valley
Daggett
MARINE CORPS FIRING RANGE
SUPPLY CENTER AREA
Barstow Airp.
Azucar Mine
T9N
T8N
SBM
R1W
R1E
R2E
N

APPENDIX B

AMENDMENTS NOT CONSIDERED

TABLE B-1

Amendments Handled Through Administrative Action

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
88-P-28	Close a route of travel in the Last Chance Canyon area. (Mark R. Faull, Cantil).	Access should be closed to a wash bed which goes up the Cudahy Creek drainage to protect a large population of the plant Hemizonia arida which is State-listed as "rare" and a Category 1 candidate for Federal listing.	A plan amendment is not necessary. The proposal can be considered in the annual route designation amendment process.
88-P-31	Change the camping regulations at Saline Valley as follows: 1) Limit the camping period to 10 days; 2) Prohibit continuance of the nudist camp; 3) Return all aircraft runways to natural state; 4) Provide full-time rangers in winter season. 5) Forbid all camping until there are adequate sanitary facilities. (Dean E. Karlberg, Ridgecrest)	This environmentally sensitive area needs adequate protection.	A plan amendment is not necessary. A Recreation Management Plan will be prepared for the Saline Valley. Public comments will be invited, with meetings probably held in Ridgecrest and Bishop.
88-P-34	Amend the Desert Plan to include a recommendation that the Big Maria Mountains be designated a Wilderness Area. (Charles Lamb, Colorado River Indian Tribes).	Since the Desert Plan was adopted in 1980, a great deal of information has come to light concerning the unparalleled cultural resources in the area, including resources of great significance to Native Americans. In addition, it has been documented that the area possesses a full range of other wilderness values, many of which were apparently not identified at the time that the 1980 Plan was adopted.	Desert District staff will continue to coordinate with the Colorado River Indian Tribes and the BLM Yuma Resource Area to protect these outstanding and sensitive cultural resources by several actions, such as: fencing, vehicle route designation and identification of alternate off-highway-vehicle areas.

TABLE B-2

Amendments Deferred

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	BLM Remarks
88-P-3	Designate an ACEC for botanical resources near Freeman Junction (junction of State Highways 178 and 14). (Mark Faull, Ridgecrest)	An ancient creosote clone measuring 8,838 meters in diameter, which is probably over 9,000 years old, is threatened by off-highway vehicle use and by commercial harvesting of creosotes. Special protection is needed for this outstanding and irreplacable plant.	The BLM will collaborate with the California Dept. of Fish & Game in a study of creosote clones throughout the Calif. Desert District and will develop criteria for evaluating this resource in future management decisions. Designation of ACEC status for the most outstanding and threatened clones will be considered in future amendment processes.
88-P-15	Remove all grazing in the East Mojave National Scenic Area west of Kelbaker Road and in the South Providence Mountains (i.e., south of Foshay Pass). (Sierra Club).	The largest herds of bighorn sheep in the Mojave Desert are in the Old Dad/Kelso Peak area, Granite Mountains and Marble Mountains. Domestic stock grazing in the bighorn habitat represents a very real disease threat to the bighorn herds. Knowledge of this disease threat is based on research and publications since 1980. The area described does not contain all the bighorn habitat, but certainly the major herds. The South Providence is included because bighorn sheep regularly migrate between the Granite Mountains and the South Providence. It is our understanding that presently there is no grazing allotment in the Marble Mountains, but there are certainly cattle there. It is thought by the BLM staff that these are drift cattle from north of I-40. Not having grazing south of Foshay Pass would substantially reduce the drift problem.	The relationship between domestic stock grazing and bighorn habitat will be evaluated in an upcoming study. If stock grazing is shown to be a potential threat to bighorn in the EMNSA, this amendment proposal will be presented in a later amendment process.

TABLE B-2 (continued)

Amendments Deferred

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	BLM Remarks
88-P-17 88-P-18	Revise and clarify the portion of the Livestock Grazing Element in the CDCA Plan relating to grazing within Desert Tortoise habitat.	The CDCA Plan established procedures to allow grazing within highly crucial and crucial habitat for the desert tortoise with the goal of maintaining or enhancing tortoise population levels. Data gathered on eight study plots in the western Mojave clearly show that these goals are not being met. The population problems identified are not unique to a specific grazing allotment but point to the need for a change in the procedures in all allotments.	Decisions on grazing in Desert Tortoise habitat will utilize much of the information obtained in redefining tortoise habitat categories (see amendment proposal P-20). For this reason, this amendment was carried over to the 1989 amendment cycle.
88-P-19	Change the grazing classification of the Pilot Knob Allotment from ephemeral to ephemeral/perennial. (Billy and Ann Mitchell, Barstow.)	We would like to change from a "stocker" operation to a cow/calf operation and believe that this request was made a few years ago.	This proposal will be considered as soon as the Allotment Management Plan is completed. The AMP is currently under preparation.
88-P-20	Define three categories of Desert Tortoise habitat.	In 1987, the BLM Chief of the Division of Wildlife and Fisheries in the Washington Office issued a report entitled "Management of Desert Tortoise Habitat." That report defined three categories of tortoise habitat and identified criteria for each category. Instructions from the Director of BLM (Information Bulletin 88-33) directed Bureau offices to implement the recommendations contained in the report. The designation of these categories will set a backdrop for a consistent Bureau-wide management program for the Desert Tortoise.	The significant impact this amendment may have on grazing, utility corridors, and other land surface-disturbing activities will require additional amendments in order to assure consistency between the Desert Plan's multiple use class designations and categories of Desert Tortoise habitat. Because of time constraints, it was decided to carry the proposal over into the 1989 amendment cycle to allow additional time for staff research and public input.

TABLE B-2 (continued)

Amendments Deferred

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	BLM Remarks
88-P-27	Remove an area of creosote clones from the Dove Springs Open Area. Change vehicle access from "open" to "closed" and the Multiple Use Class from "I" to "M" or "L". The colony of clones is located west of Highway 14 in the Red Rock Canyon vicinity. (Mark Faull, Ridgecrest)	The existence of this clone colony was not known at the time of the creation of this Open Area. The estimated age of clones is 2000 to 4000 years. Diameters of over 30 feet are found here. Special protection is needed for this clone site, so that we may pass on this heritage to future generations.	The BLM will collaborate with the California Dept. of Fish and Game in a study of creosote clones throughout the Calif. Desert District and will develop criteria for evaluating this resource in future management decisions. Designation of ACEC status or other protective actions for the most outstanding and threatened clones will be considered in future amendment processes.

TABLE B-3

Amendments Dropped

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
88-P-8	Modify boundaries of ACEC #24, Bedrock Spring. (BLM, Ridgecrest RA)	The original boundary is not physically definable, making management difficult. The proposed boundary is more easily identifiable on the ground. It will also incorporate petroglyphs, which are excluded by original boundary.	The Draft ACEC Plan recommended the change in boundary. Following public review, it was concluded that the sensitive cultural resources could be protected by increased signing and fencing, and that a change in boundary was not necessary.
88-P-10	Modify the boundary of the East Mojave National Scenic Area in the Mountain Pass region to remove four sections containing mining properties. (Eugene Dambold and Jerry Lipscomb)	Several mining claims are just inside the boundary of the Scenic Area in the Kokoweef area. Claimholders have substantiated the presences of valuable resources on their claims (gold, silver, and platinum) but have not been able to interest mining companies about leasing because they are inside the Scenic Area.	Regulations on mineral exploration and development are not affected by the East Mojave National Scenic Area designation.
88-P-32	Modify the eastern boundaries of the Little Lake Canyon (CDCA-197) and Owens Peak (CDCA-159) recommended wilderness areas between COSO Junction and Freeman Junction to a minimum of 100 feet west of the centerline of the westernmost aqueduct (i.e., First or Second Aqueduct) of the Los Angeles Aqueduct System (LA Dept. Water and Power).	In 1906, Congress directed the Secretary of Interior to grant the L.A. Dept. of Water & Power all necessary rights-of-way, not to exceed 250 feet in width, over and through national forest lands for purposes of constructing, operating, and maintaining the LA Aqueduct System as necessary. The boundaries of the two wilderness study areas overlap, at several locations, the existing LAA System. Such inclusion would have a significant impact by limiting the Department's ability to operate and maintain the two adueducts. It is	A Plan Amendment is not required. Since the LA Aqueduct System existed prior to passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, these facilities will not be affected by wilderness designation. The L.A. Dept. of Water & Power may perform whatever maintenance is needed.

TABLE B-3 (continued)

Amendments Dropped

Prelim. Amend. No.	Amendment	Proponent's Reason for Submission	Remarks
(88-P-32 cont.)		imperative that the Department continue to have complete access at all times to the LAA System for repair in emergency situations as well as for routine maintenance	
88-P-33	The Bureau should undertake and incorporate a secondary or alternative wilderness suitability for California wilderness Study Areas; it should utilize widely solicited extensive public comment and new scientific data from private, city county, and state studies (Frederic C. Johnson, Tecopa, CA)	This call for additional inventory is prompted by recent implications and concerns of many public factions that presently designated unsuitable and suitable wilderness areas do no represent the best utilization of all the factural data that has become available over the last 8 years. Although it is the Bureau's policy not to change WSA boundaries, no matter how suitable or unsuitable, this should not negate the presentation of a comprehensive compilation of new data in the from of an alternative proposal to the Secretary of Interior and Congress The inventory of public lands is an ongoing complex process which should be as complete as possible before land use designations such as wilderness are legisated.	The Bureau is transmitting to Congress all information developed since 1980 on energy and mineral resources in Wilderness Study Areas. We are pointing out locations of significant changes. Congressional deliberation will consider this new information.

APPENDIX C

SOURCE OF AMENDMENTS ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION

SOURCE OF AMENDMENTS
ACCEPTED FOR CONSIDERATION

Final Amend. No.	Preliminary Amendment No.	Title	Proponent
1	88-P-1	New ACEC - Rodman Mountains	BLM, Barstow RA
2	88-P-2	New ACEC - Red Rock Canyon	Audubon Society, Kerncrest Chapter
3	88-P-4	New ACEC - Dedeckera Canyon	Calif. Native Plant Society, Ridgecrest
4	88-P-9	Enlarge Coyote Mountain ACEC	BLM, El Centro RA
5	88-P-6	Delete Camp Irwin Boundary ACEC	BLM, Barstow RA
6	88-P-7	Delete Kramer Hills ACEC	BLM, Barstow RA
7	88-P-5	Delete Dale Lake ACEC	BLM, Barstow RA
8	88-P-22	Yuha Desert Management Area	BLM, El Centro RA
9	88-P-23	East Mesa Desert Area	BLM, El Centro RA
10	88-P-24	East Mojave Scenic Area	BLM, Needles RA
11	88-P-25	Dumont Dunes area	BLM, Barstow RA
12	88-P-26	Ivanpah Dry Lake	Whiskey Pete's Casino
13	88-P-11	Utility Corridor M	BLM, El Centro RA
14	88-P-12	Utility Corridor E	BLM, Needles RA
15	88-P-13	Contingent Corridor W	BLM, Needles RA
16	88-P-29	Vehicle Access - Chuckwalla Dune Thicket ACEC	BLM, Indio RA
17	88-P-30	Vehicle Access - Palen Dry Lake ACEC	BLM, Indio RA
18	88-P-14	Ford Dry Lake Grazing Allotment	Calif. Dept. of Fish and Game
19	88-P-16	New grazing allotment, Daggett	Pedro Erneta